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Desert island drugs

Tom Stuttaford packs his raft with the dispensary dozen no doctor can be without, **p13**



Lion of Longleat

Joanna Pitman tries the fantasy world of Lord Bath, **p12**



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20P

CENTRAL DIVISION

THE TIMES

No. 65,196 TUESDAY FEBRUARY 21 1995

Belfast summit to launch peace plan

Major plans appeal to Ulster voters

BY PHILIP WEBSTER AND NICHOLAS WATT

THE Government was last night preparing a direct appeal to the people of Northern Ireland to give the London-Dublin proposals for the future of the Province a chance of progress.

A special Cabinet meeting has been summoned by John Major today to launch the most perilous stage so far in the search for lasting peace. The Irish Cabinet will meet in Dublin to give final approval to the plans.

Tomorrow Mr Major and John Bruton, the Irish Prime Minister, will go to Belfast to unveil the joint framework document designed to pave the way for full constitutional talks. Mr Major will then return to London for a Commons statement.

Their symbolic choice of Belfast for the summit will mark the start of a huge effort to convince the Protestant population that the proposals are not a "sell-out", in spite of the fierce hostility to them displayed by their leading politicians.

The 26-page framework document, to be published alongside a separate document on the internal government of the Province, including the establishment of an assembly, is to be made available on request.

By inviting voters to judge the document for themselves the Prime Minister is clearly hoping to put pressure on Unionist politicians to keep up the search for peace.

James Molyneaux, leader of the Ulster Unionists, will today publish his party's alternative proposals for Northern Ireland's future, and this afternoon the Rev Ian Paisley, leader of the Democratic Unionists, is expected to make plain in a meeting with Mr Major that his party will have nothing to do with a document which it believes could open the way to a united Ireland.

There were hopes within the Government last night that Mr Molyneaux's party would not put itself outside the talks process. The readiness of ministers to discuss the Unionist proposals alongside those of the two governments was confirmed last night and could prevent an outright boycott.

Downing Street also attempted to allay Unionist fears by emphasising that they would not be forced into accepting a political solution against their will. A spokesman said: "We are not in the business of imposing a settlement on the people of Ulster that they do not want."

A highly unusual meeting at the Commons last night between Mr Molyneaux, Mr Paisley and John Hume, leader of the Social Democratic and Labour Party, caused considerable surprise. But apart from saying that they had a "constructive discussion" they declined to make any further statement.

As London and Dublin prepared for their most important initiative since the Anglo-Irish agreement, Unionists outlined their objections to the document. Mr Paisley said the Government was surrendering to Sinn Fein and the IRA. At a press conference in Belfast he rejected Dublin's plans to amend its constitutional claim over Northern Ireland.

"If they are going to recognise the principle of consent they should do away with the iniquitous, immoral and illegal claim that they make over Northern Ireland in their false constitution," he said.

Mr Paisley presented his own proposals to the Government last month. He called for the establishment of a convention in the Province to consider political changes. The convention would deal with the internal government of the Province and decide its relations with Dublin.

Sinn Fein, meanwhile, said it would not be responding to the framework document proposals at its annual conference in Dublin next weekend, although they would be studied by the leadership.

☐ Police were stoned in the nationalist Bogside area of Londonderry yesterday after the RUC arrested seven republicans, including two leading Sinn Fein members. Sinn Fein accused the police of trying to disrupt the peace process.

INSIDE

The concept of negotiations between Dublin and London leading to agreement inside Northern Ireland is flawed

Conor Cruise O'Brien's analysis on page 14



ANDREW MURRAY

Madonna leaving for the Brit Awards at Alexandra Palace last night. There were feeble chants from a group of 60 fans

Only a faithful few greet Madonna

BY BILL FROST AND DAVID SINCLAIR

THERE was a time she would have stopped the traffic, but yesterday Madonna drew only a handful of bedraggled fans outside the exclusive London hotel where she has been staying for the Brit Awards.

An unholy alliance of bad weather and changing fashion in pop music appeared to have conspired against the 36-year-old singer. Her followers were told by a security guard that Madonna would not be signing autographs, as "she was not properly dressed for them". The Material Girl, who snubbed the awards three years ago because of a dispute over the "format and odd nominations", stayed in her £3,000-a-day suite at the Lanesborough Hotel at Hyde Park, ignoring the increasingly feeble chants of the group of 60 fans.

The pop group Blur became the first act in the 13-year history of the Brits to win four awards. At a ceremony at London's Alexandra Palace last night, the band took best British group, best album by a British artiste (*Parklife*), best video for a British artiste (*Parklife*) and best single by a British artiste (*Parklife*).

Other British acts honoured were Paul Weller (best British male solo artist), Eddi Reader (best British female solo artist), M People (best British dance act), Oasis (best British newcomer) and Nellee Hooper (best British producer). *Pulp Fiction* was named the best soundtrack.

Winners in international categories were: the artist formerly known as Prince (best solo male); kd lang (best solo female); Lisa Loeb (best newcomer), and R.E.M. (best group).

Fast track courts plan to settle civil disputes

BY FRANCES GIBB
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

A SHAKE-UP of the civil courts system which would see an end to the county courts and the creation of a new single streamlined court for civil disputes is expected to be proposed in a report to the Lord Chancellor.

The existing High Court and county court would be scrapped and instead civil disputes would be allocated to one of four tracks, including a new fast track for simpler claims up to £10,000. There would be three tiers of judges, equivalent to the present hierarchy of High Court, county court and district judge or master, but probably with different names.

The proposals are expected to form a central plank in the review of civil justice by Lord Woolf, the law lord. They are outlined in a draft of his first report due to be published next month and to go to the Lord Chancellor in July.

Apart from the new single unified court system, Lord Woolf also wants judges to be formally trained in becoming trial managers, so they can dictate the pace of hearings and enforce strict time limits; and to become involved in the administration of the courts.

He is expected to call for proper funding of the new court system and adequate numbers of judges to ensure the proposals are properly implemented, as well as improved resources for law centres and citizens' advice bureaux.

A key aim of the report is to encourage early settlement of disputes. One proposal is for a system of "plaintiff's offers" in which the person bringing the claim would suggest a sum (lower than his actual claim) at which he would be prepared to settle. If his opponent refused

Continued on page 2, col 6

Law, pages 31, 35

Ex-soldiers wanted as probation staff

BY RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

MICHAEL HOWARD is preparing to unveil an overhaul of probation officer training intended to encourage former soldiers and police officers, and more men generally, to join the service.

An announcement from the Home Secretary that the Government is to bring to an end the requirement that all probation officers must have a social work qualification is imminent.

Mr Howard is to demand more practical on-the-job training in an attempt to rid the service of what is seen by Home Office minsters as a too liberal ethos and replace it with a disciplinarian attitude towards offenders. The proposals follow a confidential review of the training of probation officers which concluded that the service has become dominated by social work values, racism and other anti-discrimination issues. It found that 68 per cent of new entrants are women and 12 per cent members of the Afro-Caribbean community.

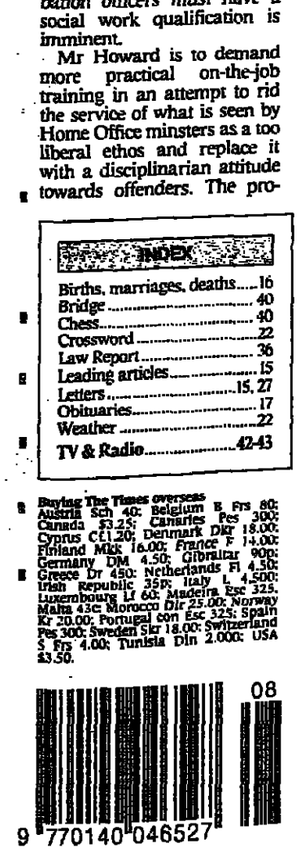
Mr Howard is also considering a "one strike and you're out" approach to offenders who breach probation orders. An offender who failed to keep an appointment with a probation officer or to attend a community service activity would be sent back to the courts. At present sending back requires three breaches.

Harry Fletcher, assistant general secretary of the National Association of Probation Officers, said last night that implementation of this policy would place an intolerable burden on courts and police.

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Government to vet safety of pioneering medicine

BY JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

PIONEERING medical techniques that will revolutionise surgery and the treatment of diseases are to be controlled by the Government to prevent patients from being harmed by inexperienced doctors.

In response to the accelerating pace of medical science, ministers are to introduce measures to curb the spread of new techniques, such as keyhole surgery, until they have been proved to be safe and effective.

Among ideas being considered by ministers is a system of registering new techniques similar to that for licensing new drugs. Methods on the register would be rated on safety, efficacy and cost effectiveness.

Techniques which could come before any watchdog committee include the developing use of X-rays, ultra sound and radioactive isotopes to diagnose and treat disease. Controversy over keyhole surgery, which has been taken up rapidly by surgeons before its risks and benefits are clear, has alarmed senior doctors and alerted some Government ministers to the need for controls.

Five years after its introduction in 1990, one in five abdominal operations is performed using the technique, but there is no evidence that it is better than conventional surgery, according to Health Department research.

Another innovation widely used but not subject to clinical trials is lithotripsy: the employment of sound waves to break up kidney stones.

Virginia Bottomley, the Health Secretary, told *The Times:* "We are talking with the Royal Medical Colleges about setting up a committee on the safety and efficacy of medical innovation. As new techniques come through they would be referred for consideration to that committee."

Under one proposal, small groups of medical experts would consider which techniques or treatments should be entered on the register and how they should be assessed. Ministers intend the register to be used by health authorities and GP fundholders to decide which treatments and techniques to fund.

Mrs Bottomley said that the proposed scheme would be "comparable" to the Committee on Safety of Medicines, which licences new drugs. As well as curbing untested techniques, the aim would be to extend proven treatments to the NHS as swiftly as possible.

Body and Mind, page 13
Leading article, page 15

Falling pound drags London shares lower

The pound continued its slide against the mark yesterday, losing more than a pfennig and dragging shares lower in London. The trade-weighted index closed at 86.9, compared with 87.1 on Friday, and the FTSE-100 index lost 25.6 points to close at 3018.6.

The dollar drifted higher after falling to a 28-month low against the mark of DM1.4710 in Far East trading, prompting support from the Bank of Japan. It closed at DM1.4750 in Europe.....Page 23

Constable cleared of raping WPC

Michael Seear, 25, a police constable acquitted at the Old Bailey of raping a female colleague, said he was astonished that the case had reached court. He could not understand how she could remain with the Surrey force after having her testimony rejected by a jury.....Page 3

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Baronet's bailiffs go shopping at Harrods

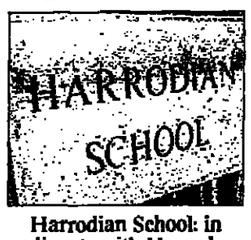
BY DOMINIC KENNEDY

AN UNUSUAL pair of shoppers left Harrods yesterday with a list of luxuries amounting to £123,000 that they would like to acquire unless the store settles a disputed legal bill.

Four suits of armour and eight Chesterfield suites were among the items that tempted the two men, acting for the High Court sheriff, who arrived at the Knightsbridge shop brandishing a writ.

They were acting on behalf of Sir Alford Houstoun-Boswall, a baronet who won the right last year to call his preparatory school "The Harrodian School" and who claims that £123,000 costs plus interest is still outstanding. They presented themselves at the store at 10am yesterday armed with a writ of *fi fa* (the abbreviation for *fieri facias* — "See that it is done").

The bailiffs, one in a blue anorak and his companion in an old raincoat, then began their unobtrusive browse through the four acres of furniture galleries. Because the goods theoretically would have to be auctioned, the bailiffs made their own estimates, knocking up to half off the shop prices.



Harrodian School: in dispute with Harrods

The Toledo steel suit of armour priced at £1,550 clearly failed to impress and was marked down "four for £1,000". They also chose a Chippendale double pedestal desk, £10,000; Carlton House decorated desk, £7,000; eight Chesterfield suites in red and green leather, £6,000 each; a Yamaha piano with computer disk, £6,000; ten dining suites, £4,000 each; a kidney-shaped table, £4,000; an antique leather faux bookcase, £3,000; a Kawasaki ski jet, £2,500; a cocktail cabinet, £1,000; 18 riding saddles, £100 each; nine computer screens, keyboards and disk drives.

After an hour, they went away leaving the goods in place but having taken what is known in the trade as "walking possession". Usually, this means that the items are marked and cannot be sold, but if a store is still trading, the bailiffs need only to make a list and send it to the shop with the demand for payment. Harrods will then have 14 days to settle the legal bill or the bailiffs will remove the items and sell them.

On the fifth floor Michael Cole, Harrods public affairs director, and one of the most accomplished practitioners of the art, was splenetic. "Within minutes of this happening,

Continued on page 2, col 4

Rare elements of truth come trickling from behind closed doors

MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

We take as our text for this morning the report of a written answer in a recent *Hansard*:

Mr Paul Flynn (Newport W): "To ask the Lord President of the Council what was the total cost of the ten most expensive parliamentary questions in the past 15 years for which calculations have been made; which hon Members asked the questions; and what considerations led him to waive the normal rule regarding disproportionate cost."

Mr Tony Newton (Lord President): "This information could be provided only at disproportionate cost."

Parliament sat, as ever, at 2.30pm yesterday.

On the Sunday train down from Derby the night before, your sketchwriter witnessed a small but refreshing episode. It seemed a million miles from Westminster, Whitehall, and the Government of Britain . . .

At Loughborough station none of the automatic carriage doors would open. With passengers anxious to alight, standing, fretting in the aisles, an Asian accent crackled over the intercom: "This is your senior conductor speaking. I regret this delay. We cannot get the doors open. It is because I have lost the key. The train is crowded. Please be patient for a few moments longer. It is my fault. I am very sorry."

He was as good as his word, alighting from the engine, running back the length of the train to his van, and finding the key. The doors were soon open.

Later, still flustered, he came to inspect my ticket. I offered my sympathies. "At least," I said, "it's nice to hear somebody taking responsibility for something and apologising freely."

"Do you know," he replied, "it is a most surprising thing: that is what almost every single passenger I have passed has said to me. They all say 'how unusual to hear someone explaining and saying sorry. Nobody admits to anything in Britain these days. Nobody tells you anything. What a pity our MPs and ministers are not more like you!' "

In a witty speech yesterday, Margaret Beckett took up the cudgels on behalf of those who seek to extract honest information from the political machine. Labour's Health spokesman is making something of a theme of this; she has spoken of the "*virtual reality*" vocabulary of the new, modernised, internal market-ised NHS-speak.

Yesterday, pouring scorn on Mrs Bottomley's new "trolley standard" for NHS hospitals, she took the Health Secretary (whom she calls the Madam Mao of the Health Service) to task for obscurantism.

She had asked Mrs Bottomley how many hospital units there were in the London area, she said, and been told that "this information is not centrally held". To laughter Mrs Beckett invited MPs to consider what they would think if the chairman of Kingfisher were to be asked how many branches of Woolworths there were in London, and responded: "this information is not centrally held".

She had asked about hospital closures, and been told instead of plans to "rationalise". She had asked about decisions, and received the response in terms of "strategic directions". It seemed, mused Beckett, to more laughter, "that 'this information is not centrally held' means 'I haven't got a clue'. 'Rationalised' means 'closed'. And in place of decisions we have 'strategic directions'.

"Well the Labour Party do have a strategic direction to suggest for Mrs Bottomley," declared Beckett, tossing her head in the direction of the doors of the Chamber. "The exit. She should take it. And she can rationalise the door behind her."

Britain will take part in preparing for single currency

FROM GEORGE BROCK IN BRUSSELS AND ALICE THOMSON

BRITAIN will continue to take part "constructively" in the technical preparations for a single European currency despite the prevailing uncertainty over whether it would join a monetary union, Kenneth Clarke said yesterday.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer yesterday assured his colleagues that British officials would remain full members of the committees preparing timetables and currency.

Other EU finance ministers had not expected anything else and, as Mr Clarke said, they probably didn't "take the slightest notice because what I said was so predictable." "He's on a pro-European track and we must encourage him," Jean-Claude Juncker, the Luxembourg finance minister, said.

Mr Clarke's officials strenuously insisted that the Chancellor had talked about Britain's constructive involvement in the preparation of the currency "many" times before. He had, they said, no intention of defying the Prime Minister's request for discretion on the subject or of opening a new argument with Euro-sceptics who would like the Government to stop even thinking about monetary union.

But the Chancellor, who was in Brussels, was assailed by questions about whether he was defying John Major's attempts to "gag" him. He explained that everything he said had been "wholly consistent" with agreed government policy and that he could hardly have said that Britain would participate "destructively" in single currency talks "even though that would have given pleasure to one or two people at home".

Meanwhile Michael Portillo, the Employment Secretary, was in London making a valiant effort to obey the Prime Minister's edict not to discuss Europe. At a London Rotary club lunch at the Marriott Hotel, Mr Portillo toned down his usual Euro-scepticism so much and refused to comment on so many points, that guests were forced into asking him questions about the food they were eating.

The Employment Secretary also ostentatiously refused to mention the word Brussels. Instead he gave a dry speech on unemployment statistics and the need for businesses, not Governments, to create jobs.

Other contributions to the Brussels meeting revealed a striking level of support for Mr Clarke's familiar emphasis on the need for real economic convergence before any decision on a single currency could be taken — and even for his refusal to believe that monetary union could begin as early as 1997.

Ruari Quinn, the Irish finance minister, agreed that 1997 would be premature, although Edmond Alphandéry, the French chairman of the meeting, reiterated the French belief that a 1997 start was feasible.

☐ Mr Clarke was last night urged to stand down by Bill Cash, a leading Tory Euro-sceptic, "to end the chaos in the party"

In the most direct attack on Mr Clarke by the Euro-sceptics, Mr Cash, MP for Stafford, said he no longer had confidence in him as Chancellor. "I would prefer that he should go rather than we should continue with this chaotic situation," he told BBC Radio 4's *PM*.

"I think the key question here is whether he would not be better off arguing his case honorably from the backbenches

Federal case, page 8

Farm ministers' meeting picketed

BY MICHAEL HORNSBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

ABOUT 50 British animal rights activists were among 300 demonstrators who picketed a meeting of European Union agriculture ministers in Brussels yesterday in protest at the long-distance transport of livestock.

The ministers, including William Waldegrave, were last night searching for an agreement on a limit for journey times to slaughterhouses. Mr Waldegrave estimated the chances of success at 50-50. He shook hands with several of the protesters, who included Brigitte Bardot, the French actress turned animal welfare campaigner, and praised their determination. He also accepted a petition calling for an end to the live animal trade signed by 2.5 million people.

EU law allows animals to be transported for up to 22 hours without rest, food or water. There is no limit on the total journey time. Animal welfare groups, backed by the European parliament, Austria and Germany, want an absolute limit of eight hours. Britain is trying to broker a compromise limit of about 15 hours (variable according to the type of animal), with a compulsory break of several days before the animals are transported any further. Italy, Spain and Greece are opposed to any tightening of the rules.

Meanwhile, the head of the consortium of hauliers and farmers that has been organising the shipment of calves and sheep to France from Shoreham-by-Sea, West Sussex, has resigned because of threats to his family. David Revell, managing director of International Traders Ferries, said he had also had disagreements with shareholders who wanted to expand the trade.

Photograph, page 22

TONY WHITE



Sir Alford and Lady Houstoun-Boswall: their pupils are not fazed by luxury

Baronet's bailiffs go shopping

Continued from page 1

people like yourself were informed," he said. "This is a stupid stunt that reflects poorly on the people behind it."

The dispute stems from 1993 when Harrods sold its former sports ground in Barnes, southwest London, to Sir Alford, eighth baronet and former lecturer in eighteenth-century English Art at the Metropolitan Museum in New York, to found a school for 100 pupils. But when he caled it The Harrodian School, the Knightsbridge store took him to court to protect its name and trademark. In May last year Mr Justice Harman rejected the store's action.

Harrods is appealing against the judge's decision, but a hearing is not expected until next February. In the meantime, the store says it has written a cheque for the costs and lodged it with its solicitors until the appeal is decided.

At his school yesterday, Sir Alford, 46, said: "What other course is open to us? If they are going to play games, the only thing we can do is to play them at their own game."

Sir Alford, an art-loving former business consultant, has frequently upset the educational establishment by expressing his liberal views on schooling. At the Harrodian School, *salade niçoise* and *tarte aux fruits* are de rigueur on the lunch menu. "We have to learn not to be fazed by luxury," he once told a reporter. His own children were more conventionally educated, his son at St Paul's prep school and Westminster and his daughter at a state school in Paris before St Paul's.

Yesterday he said: "We have a court order. Can you believe it, we still haven't been paid, that's. . ." he said, counting with his fingers and muttering the names of the months . . . "that's nine months."

Kaufman discloses KGB bribe attempt

Gerald Kaufman disclosed yesterday that the KGB had once attempted to entrap him by offering him "spending money" during a visit in 1987 to the GUM department store in Moscow. "I told [my minder] I did not want it, but he insisted," the former Shadow Foreign Secretary said.

Back at the British Embassy Mr Kaufman exchanged notes — to avoid eavesdropping — with Sir Bryan Cartledge, British Ambassador at the time, asking how to extricate himself without causing offence. Sir Bryan wrote back suggesting Mr Kaufman donated the money as a contribution to the Chernobyl disaster fund and that it should be done in as public a place as possible. Mr Kaufman duly handed it over in the foyer of the Bolshoi theatre.

Three feared dead

Three men missing in separate accidents on Saturday are now feared dead. Andrew Wilson, a cross-country skiier from Glasgow, disappeared around Glenshee after separating from a friend. Anthony Marsh, from Manchester, fell *climbing on Ben Nevis and Alistair McQuilkie* is feared drowned after his dinghy was found on Loch Lomond.

Black appeal rejected

Robert Black, serving life for the abduction and murder of young girls, was refused leave yesterday to appeal against his convictions. Lawyers for Black had argued he was denied a fair trial, but in the Court of Appeal, Lord Taylor, the Lord Chief Justice, dismissed the case and said the court would give reasons for its decision on Thursday.

Leaf danger denied

Railtrack insisted yesterday that falling leaves had caused no great danger last autumn, in spite of John Ellis, its director of production, having described the season as "disastrous in terms of safety" in a letter to regional directors. Railtrack said his warning had helped to avoid problems with trains skidding out of control.

Hospital rescued

A private hospital near Glasgow which called in the receivers six months after opening has been bought by an investment company from Abu Dhabi. Its new owners say they plan to develop the £180 million HCI hospital into a world-class private health centre which could eventually employ 1,800 people.

UB40 sued over pop hit

An amateur poet who claims she wrote the lyrics to *Don't Break My Heart*, recorded by the pop group UB40, began a High Court claim for royalties yesterday. The song reached number three in the pop charts. Deborah Banks, 38, from Mosely, Birmingham, is suing the group, CBS Songs Ltd, ATV Music Ltd, Fernscan Ltd and Virgin Records.

MP's heart operation

Jack Aspinwall, Conservative MP for Wansdyke, was recovering in Southampton General Hospital last night after open-heart surgery. Mr Aspinwall, 62, was transferred from the Royal United Hospital in Bath where he was admitted last Wednesday. A hospital spokesman said Mr Aspinwall was making good progress.

Bulgarian plea over wine ban

BY EDWARD GORMAN

THE Bulgarian ambassador yesterday appealed to trade unions in Scotland to abandon plans for a boycott of Bulgarian wine as a means of forcing his country to settle its dispute with striking fishermen stranded in the Shetland Islands.

Stefan Tafrov, speaking after a two-hour meeting with a delegation including Jimmy Knapp, general secretary of the RMT, said: "Wine is a very good business for my country. A boycott will worsen the trade balance and will not allow the company to settle the problem."

Twenty-six Bulgarian fishermen on board a rusting vessel have been on official strike since the beginning of January. They refuse to return home until they receive what they claim are three years in back pay from a state owned company now in receivership.

Terrorist's gun jammed during Greysteel bar attack, court told

BY A STAFF REPORTER

A TERRORIST'S gun jammed as Ulster Freedom Fighters sprayed a bar with gunfire killing seven customers, Belfast Crown Court was told yesterday. Even though the guns had been test fired just hours before the Hallowe'en attack on the Rising Sun at Greysteel, near Londonderry, one of the terrorists managed to fire only once before a bullet became stuck in the breech of his Browning pistol.

Pat Lynch, for the prosecution, claimed that Geoffrey Deeney, 23, whose only shot hit a woman as she tried to escape through an emergency exit door, had been providing cover for a second terrorist who fired at least 44 times. Stephen Irwin, 21, was armed with a self-loading AK47 rifle, the court heard. He opened fire on a group of women celebrating a hen night in the lounge after shouting "Trick or treat". He then walked to the dance floor — where members of a band were preparing to set up — to shoot again, Mr Lynch alleged. Initially some of the customers though it was a practical Hallowe'en joke, albeit in bad taste. A girl even said: "That's not very funny." Mr Lynch said that at one stage Irwin stopped to quickly reload, using two magazines which had been taped together to avoid any delay in the changeover.



James Moore, 82: killed in Hallowe'en attack

A third UFF man Torrens Knight, 25, stood guard outside the bar with a sawn-off shotgun. By the time the men fled in a getaway car, allegedly driven by Brian McNeill, 26, seven customers were either dead or dying. Another eight were wounded and another customer died from his injuries six months later. Mr Lynch said the motive for the attack was sectarian and supposedly revenge for the Shankill Road bombing the preceeding week in October 1993 when the IRA killed nine Protestants. But the Rising Sun was used by both sides of the local community. He told Lord Justice Carswell: "The facile and outrageous nature of such an attack is emphasised by the nature of the victims who died." These included a couple aged 19 and 20. Four were in their 50s, one man was in his 70s and James Moore, father of the bar owner, was 82. Customers dived under tables and rushed for exits but several were caught in the gunfire.

Knight of Ramsey Park, Macosquin, Coleraine, has pleaded not guilty to the eight Rising Sun murders. He has also denied any part in the murders of four men shot dead in a seperate UFF attack at Castlerock, Co Londonderry, the previous March. It is alleged that Knight was the driver of a getaway van used in that shooting. Deeney and Irwin, both of Bond Place, Londonderry and McNeill of Mourne Walk, Waterside, also Londonderry, have denied the Rising Sun murders.

Derek Grieve, 25, of Lincoln Court, Co Londonderry, has pleaded not guilty to providing Knight with a false alibi. The hearing continues today.

Four-track court plan

Continued from page 1

to accept and then lost the case with the plaintiff being awarded a bigger sum in damages than the "offer", the opponent would be penalised either with extra interest payments or in legal costs.

Lord Woolf, appointed last March to improve access to justice in the civil courts, is hopeful that his proposals will be swiftly implemented. Underpinning the first draft report is the principle that where possible, courts should be avoided and that people should look at out-of-court ways of settling their disputes such as arbitration, mediation and ombudsmen.

The most complex civil disputes would go before a High Court judge where trials would be modelled on hearings in the commercial court, with timetables for each stage.

In line with the recent policy statement by the Lord Chief Justice and the Vice-Chancellor, all High Court judges hearing these big disputes would become trial managers, taking charge of the pace of cases, fixing time limits and curbing oral advocacy by counsel.

There would be option of a new, fast track for simple cases involving up to a fixed amount, possibly £10,000, which are likely to last one or two days. Under this speedy track, all preliminary matters such as dates for hearings would be sorted out on paper. Lord Woolf envisages that the court would appoint the expert witnesses. At present the parties to the dispute each call their own experts at great cost in time and fees. The aim would be to sort out most matters prior to trial, in pre-trial hearings, with increased emphasis on paper submissions rather than oral argument.

A third track would deal with the bulk of ordinary, run-of-the mill disputes. These would go before county court judges where time limits on the pace of proceedings would be strictly enforced. The fourth track would be for small claims. More cases would be dealt with under this arbitration procedure, known as the small claims court, where Lord Woolf is likely to recommend an increase in the limit of the court's jurisdiction from £1,000 to £3,000.

☐ The Government is preparing to publish a bill this week to set up an Independent Review Body to review cases of alleged miscarriages of justice.

The proposal was the main recommendation of the Royal Commission on Criminal Justice, which reported in 1993 under Lord Runciman of Doxford as the key to restoring public confidence in the criminal justice system.

The new body, which comes about after a series of high-profile miscarriages of justice such as the Guildford Four and Birmingham Six, would have powers to order fresh police inquiries and refer cases back to the Court of Appeal.

It is expected that its members of would be appointed by the Queen on advice from the Prime Minister. They would refer convictions and sentences to the courts without any recommendation, leaving the judges as final arbiters.

Law, pages 31, 35

Shuttle train goes off the rails

BY A STAFF REPORTER

A CHANNEL Tunnel freight shuttle train was partially derailed yesterday as it entered the tunnel at Folkestone. Nobody was hurt in the incident and the train remained upright but the tunnel's freight and car passenger shuttle services were badly disrupted.

The locomotive had just entered the tunnel's portals when one of the carriages towards the back of the train left the rails, a spokeswoman for Eurotunnel said. The front part of the train was uncoupled so that the shuttle could proceed to France.

Fourteen lorry drivers in one carriage were allowed to stay on board the train with their vehicles. Another carriage containing three other lorries was unhitched from the rest of the train and towed through the tunnel by another train.

Eurotunnel said it did not know what went wrong and was investigating the incident.

CORRECTION

Jocelyn Hay represents the Voice of the Listener and Viewer and not the National Viewers' and Listeners' Association, as reported on February 16. We apologise for the error.

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SAS action 'violated EU law'

BY FRANCES GIBB
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Government was accused yesterday of violating the right to life when three unarmed IRA members were shot dead by the SAS in Gibraltar.

Lawyers for the families of the three told the 19-judge European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg that the shooting in March 1988 breached Article two of the European Convention on Human Rights which guarantees the right to life.

The case is being brought by the families of Daniel McCann, Mairead Farrell and Sean Savage and is the first to invoke the right to life guarantee in the convention. It will test the right of soldiers to use lethal force against unarmed civilians.

The European Commission of Human Rights, ruled last year that the shootings could be considered "as absolutely necessary for the legitimate aim of the defence of others". The court usually agrees with the commission. Judgment is expected later this year.

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Officer expresses amazement that policewoman is to remain in force after her testimony is rejected

PC cleared of raping colleague after party

By Richard Duce

A POLICE constable who was acquitted yesterday of raping a female colleague said he was astonished that the case ever reached court. PC Michael Seear, 25, also said he could not understand how the WPC who made the allegations could remain with the Surrey police force after having her testimony rejected by a jury.

The Old Bailey was told that the WPC, also 25, had waited three months before making the claim that she had been raped in the police section house after PC Seear returned drunk from a "toffs and tarts" New Year's Eve party last year. In what is believed to be the first time a police officer has accused a colleague of rape, the six-day trial threw into sharp relief the sexual comings and goings at the police section house in Surrey where both accused and accuser lived through the latter half of 1993 and until the rape allegation was levelled last year. Peter Clarke, for the prosecution, said: "They were having affairs all over the place."

It was alleged that the WPC cried rape to save her relationship with another officer after he discovered love bites and bruising on her breasts and body from a heavy petting session with PC Seear. Timothy Langdale, QC, for the defence, told the court that the WPC invented the story after persistent questioning about who was responsible. PC Seear said he and the WPC had been attracted to each other and twice before had kissed and cuddled without the knowledge of her boyfriend, who was based at the same section house.

He said he took the matter no further because the boyfriend was also his closest friend. However, they again kissed and cuddled in his room after the party.

He admitted he might have been responsible for bruising her but denied her claim that full sexual intercourse had taken place. The WPC, whom Mr Langdale described as "no shrinking violet", claimed PC Seear had always been a perfect "English gentleman" before the alleged rape. PC Seear, who has been suspended since April, said after his acquittal: "I am very pleased my ordeal is over. It has been a very difficult 10 months for me, my family and also my colleagues. I hope to get back to work as soon as possible. I have not slept or eaten properly in all that time."

He added that he thought it was "unbelievable" that the policewoman now felt she could continue with her career after the jury had rejected her claims. He also said he was unhappy that her identity had been protected while his name had been widely reported. "In cases like this where there are two conflicting stories it is unfair just to identify one party," he said.

He said he had received a great deal of support from fellow officers who, like him, believed the case should never have been brought to trial. "I cannot understand why it was," he said.

Surrey Police said both PC Seear and the woman officer would remain with the force. A final report on any further action, if any, had still to be drawn up by Detective Superintendent Rodger Hawkins, who headed the rape inquiry, for consideration by the deputy chief constable.

Mr Hawkins said: "Two young people are going to have to rebuild their lives. It will be difficult for both of them. There will be no change of policy regarding section houses. This is 1995 and both parties were adults."

A spokesman for the Police Federation branch in Surrey, which represented PC Seear, said it "expressed sadness over the entire incident which has been damaging for all the parties involved, the police service and in particular the Surrey Police". The WPC and her boyfriend no longer live at the section house.

ALAN WELLER



PC Seear leaving court yesterday. "I haven't eaten or slept in months," he said

A place of parties, drink and high jinks

By Stewart Tendler
Crime Correspondent

POLICE section houses, such as the scene of the alleged Surrey rape, have always had a reputation for strong camaraderie, drink, parties and high jinks. Set up at the turn of the century to provide homes for young male officers, nowadays they resemble college halls of residence housing men and women. The days when officers slept on horsehair mattresses, women were forbidden in private rooms and visitors were limited to public lounges are gone.

Last year Scotland Yard officers were called in to investigate a fight between constables at a central London section house over their rivalry for a WPC. In 1993 four officers at the same section house were suspended after allegations that they had raped a secretary after drinking with her. The claims were later found to be false.

Another London WPC claimed that she had been raped in a north London section house by a colleague in 1988. During court actions against the Yard it was ruled that the police could not be responsible for the actions of off-duty officers, even on police property.

One police expert said: "There is a lot of drinking and partying. It is fairly commonplace." A young former officer said: "They used to have fairly boozy parties but you would expect that from people of college age."

Arranged like a hostel with single rooms for each resident and shared eating and recreation facilities, the section houses became mixed with the increased recruitment of women. They may now be run by civilian managers who can order the removal of officers who misbehave.

Accuser pledges to devote career to helping victims

By Andrew Pierce

THE policewoman at the centre of the trial said yesterday that she intended to devote her career to counselling rape victims.

Speaking a few hours after PC Michael Seear was cleared of raping her at a "toffs and tarts" New Year's Eve party, the blonde-haired officer, who had been in the police for only four months before the incident, said: "I want to go back to work now as soon as possible. At least I know that if in the future I have to deal with rape victims I can fully understand what they are going through. I can certainly understand why some women don't report a rape straight away."

The 25-year-old officer spoke calmly about the case to reporters at the Surrey Police headquarters near Guildford. Sitting cross-legged in a navy blue suit with a knee-length skirt and a white blouse, she was flanked by a male colleague who had suppported her throughout the case and by a female press officer.

She said that she had broken down in tears after being telephoned about the jury's verdict. "I cried and cried for a while and then realised I had to get on with my life and do something positive. The only way I can see forward is to not let this incident completely mess up my life. I have to use it to say to victims, 'I can understand.'"

She said that her boyfriend had remained loyal to her throughout her "year of complete hell". "If we can survive this I believe we can survive anything. He has stayed loyal and supportive to me, as have my friends and colleagues."

Since reporting the attack, she has seen PC Seear only once. She said: "I was physically sick when I saw him and had to go off-duty. I can't imagine how I would react if I had to see him again."

She added: "As a police officer I have to accept the court's decision. It was very difficult for me to bring this case. Hopefully I can turn it around in a positive way and help victims through my work in the police.

"I have to move on. It has destroyed a year and four months of my life as it is. I can't let it destroy me."

She said that she had not been at work since the allegations were made.

Girl of 15 admits she lied about park attack

By A Staff Reporter

A GIRL aged 15 admitted in court yesterday that she had lied to the police about an incident for which a boy was convicted of raping her. She said she had kissed him earlier but denied expecting "some sort of sexual encounter".

The boy, now 14, became Britain's youngest convicted rapist after the incident in Platt Fields Park, Manchester, last February. He was given a 12-month supervision order. Yesterday, in Manchester Crown Court, he began an appeal against conviction.

David Steer, QC, for the boy, suggested to the girl that she had gone to an area of the park with the intention of having sex. She replied: "No."

She told the court that she had repeatedly refused the boy's requests to give him a "wax". "I understood it meant to go all the way with him and to have proper sex," she said.

The girl said that she had walked home and told her father she had been raped. She admitted alleging she had been attacked by three men near a swimming bath. "I said that because I was frightened that nobody would believe me and I would be all on my own."

The appeal, being heard by Mr Justice McCullough sitting with two magistrates, is expected to last three days.

Babysitter may have died trying to protect boy

By Kate Alderson

THE teenage babysitter stabbed to death in Bradford at the weekend may have died trying to protect the seven-year-old boy in her charge, police disclosed last night.

Rachel Rooney, 15, and Jonathan Copley, 7, were found murdered at the boy's home in Little Horton, Bradford. Rachel was understood to be babysitting on her own for the first time.

One detective close to the centre of the investigation said that the two children were found in a bedroom close to each other and there appeared to be evidence that Rachel had tried to protect Jonathan.

Detectives believe that the killer may have known Rachel or had tricked his way into the house. There was no sign of a break-in.

Detective Superintendent Malcolm Mawson of West Yorkshire Police said that the 25-year-old man who was seen outside the house on a motorcycle sounding his horn on the evening of the murders had come forward voluntarily and had proved a valuable witness. He had been eliminated from inquiries after providing vital information on the timing of the attack. "From what he has told us I am confident that at 9.30pm those two children were alive," Mr Mawson said.

As detectives continued the hunt for the children's killer, who hacked them to death with a six-inch knife, Richard Thompson, head teacher at the Grange School, where Rachel was a pupil, held special assemblies for his 1,000 pupils. The school is less than a mile from the murder scene.

Mr Thompson described Rachel, who lived in Queensbury, four miles from the school, as a popular girl. "There is a great sense of loss in the school. All youngsters are important but Rachel was the apple of our eye. Our school motto is 'Achieving together' and Rachel exemplified this. She was a shining example to her peers and whole community."

Jonathan was a pupil at South Mere First School. 100 yards from his home, where a prayer service has been held in his memory. Stewart Duxbury, the headteacher, said it had been difficult to explain the murders to young children. "Jonathan's death has hit me like a bombshell," he said. "He was a delightful little boy and well liked by all. He got on with everybody, both pupils and teachers."

Jonathan's sister Elizabeth, 15, is also a pupil at the Grange School and was a close friend of Rachel. The Rooney family — Rachel, her brother and sister, her mother Christina, and her partner Tariq Rehman — lived in a £100,000 house in a quiet cul-de-sac. Police removed a number of items from the Rooney house yesterday and the drains nearby were searched by council workers under police supervision.



Jonathan Copley, left, and his babysitter Rachel Rooney, who were stabbed to death on Saturday

GP stole £695,000 from his partners

By A Staff Reporter

A GP was jailed for 3½ years yesterday after he admitted stealing £695,000 from his partners because he did not think he was being paid enough. Dr Bryan Abbott, 55, spent £53,000 a year on fast cars, holidays and school fees for his children.

Yesterday at Stafford Crown Court he admitted 13 charges of theft and asked for a further 142 offences to be taken into consideration. Abbott swindled his eight partners in practices in Rugeley and Armitage, Staffordshire, by buying drugs at huge discounts and then keeping the savings for himself.

The court was told that he had been aggrieved that his partners had refused to pay him £100 a year for the large number of patients he had to deal with. Police became suspicious while they were investigating another matter last May after discovering blank invoices for a bogus pharmaceutical firm set up by Abbott.

Anthony Hughes, QC, for the defence, said that National Health Service patients had not suffered through the thefts. He said that after being a highly regarded GP and a pillar of his local community, Abbott now faced bankruptcy and being struck off the medical register.

Star of Red Dwarf 'led assault on woman friend'

By Lin Jenkins

CRAIG CHARLES, the star of the BBC television comedy *Red Dwarf*, orchestrated the rape and repeated indecent assault of a woman while he was high on cocaine, it was alleged at Southwark Crown Court yesterday.

The 38-year-old victim, who has known Mr Charles for six years, was in tears as she described how she had been bound by the hands and blindfolded during the attack after repeatedly refusing to participate in sexual acts suggested to her by Mr Charles. Describing to the court part of the attack she said: "It shocked me; I just screamed."

Jeremy Carter-Manning, QC, for the prosecution, said that Mr Charles took John Peplow, his co-defendant, and another unidentified man he called Roger to the woman's home in Clapham, south London, at between 5am and 6am on July 8 last year.

When woken by the doorbell she let them in and offered them coffee. Mr Carter-Manning said Mr Charles repeatedly tried to persuade her to have sexual intercourse and carry out indecent acts with one of the other men. "When she said no to that, a continual and determined no, the group of three men forced her to do so."

She had known from her previous relationship with Mr Charles that sexual intercourse with others while he watched was something he liked, but it was something to which she always said no, the court was told.

Mr Carter-Manning said Mr Charles took out a bag of cocaine and prepared it for himself and Mr Peplow, while giving, in crude terms, an account of his previous sexual encounters with the woman.

Mr Carter-Manning said that Mr Charles said if she declined with Mr Peplow then she should consent with Roger "because he was an important man to him, someone who brought him work". "She responded by making it clear that she did not want to have sexual intercourse with either man, and she got cross."

He said her hands were then tied behind her back with a stocking and she was blindfolded before Mr Charles ripped off her ski pants and knickers and Mr Peplow raped her. The victim was then subjected to a series of indecent assaults, including oral sex, by the three men who had taken further cocaine, he said.

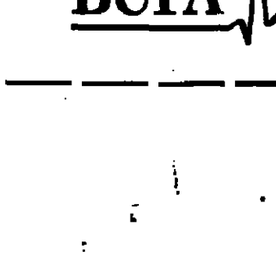
Mr Charles, 30, of Kennington, and Mr Peplow, 36, a businessman from Camberwell, both south London, deny rape. They also deny four charges of indecent assault.

Mr Carter-Manning said that while the Crown did not suggest that Mr Charles raped the woman himself, the rape charge arose from the assault being "a joint effort". He said: "In law if people act together as a team then what one does may well be the joint responsibility of others in the team."

The alleged victim was hysterical when she told neighbours of the attack. She was taken by police to a special suite at Wimbledon for an examination but since no suitably qualified doctor could be found she was sent home. By the next day, when she had a medical examination, she had already bathed.

Mr Carter-Manning said forensic experts found traces of cocaine in the flat on a piece of paper, a Biro tube and on two rulers. Fingerprints of the two accused were also found on items in the flat.

The woman is to continue giving evidence when the trial resumes today.



Charles: was allegedly high on cocaine

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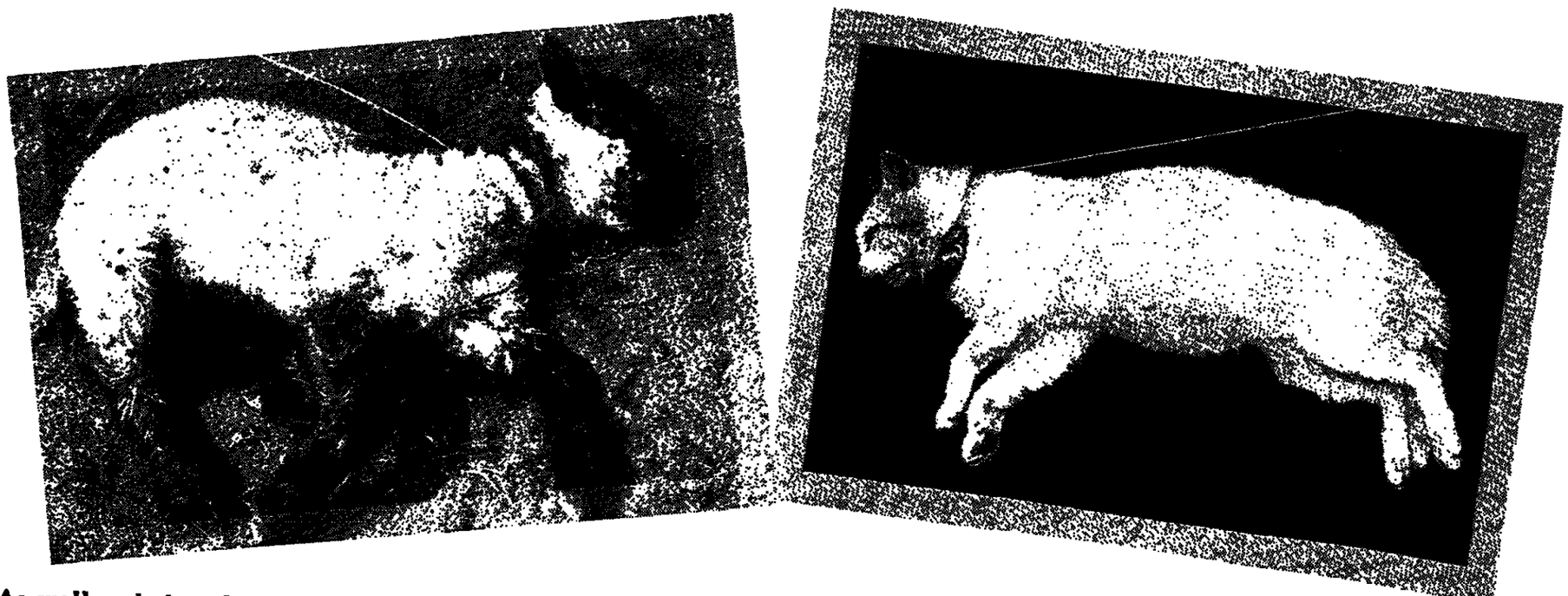
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New inquest opens on MP who was sent home by hospital

A SECOND inquest began yesterday into the death of Mike Carr, the Labour MP who suffered a heart attack less than two hours after being discharged from an NHS hospital.

Proceedings at an earlier inquest had been halted and annulled after Mr Carr's family appealed to the High Court for a judicial review. A file was sent to the Director of Public Prosecutions for a decision on whether anyone should face criminal charges. The DPP ruled that there should be no prosecution but the High Court ordered a fresh inquest. The hearing, with a new jury and different coroner, began at Liverpool Coroner's Court yesterday.

Christopher Johnson, deputy Merseyside coroner, told the jury that Mr Carr was admitted to Walton Hospital at 9.54pm on July 20, 1990. Mr Carr, who had been elected MP for Bootle 57 days earlier, complained of chest pains while he was attending a "heated" Labour Party meeting at a pub in Liverpool.

He went outside for some fresh air but broke into a cold sweat and had to sit down. The jury was told that an ambulance was called and Mr Carr, 43, was taken to Walton Hospital.

To his surprise, he was allowed to go home by taxi at 10.25pm. When he arrived home he became unwell and another ambulance was called. He was again taken to the Accident and Emergency department at Walton Hospital. Attempts to revive him failed and he died at 11.50pm.



Carr: suffered pains in chest at party meeting

James Symms, Mr Carr's friend, had been with him at the constituency meeting and in the hospital. He said that he was surprised when Mr Carr was sent home. He told the inquest: "Outside the pub his colour was gone. He said he had a pain in his chest, a numb hand and pins and needles. In hospital the doctor said that all tests on his heart were OK.

"We were told the cause of the condition was hyperventilation and he could go home. The doctor gave Mike a letter and told him to see his GP if he got worse. We were surprised he was allowed to go home but we didn't question it.

"He told me he still had pins and needles and pains in his chest. I think Mike was more surprised than I was when he was told he could go home."

Mr Symms had known Mr Carr, formerly of the Transport and General Workers Union, for 17 years. He said the meeting had been a heated political debate.

Ian McDicken, a pathologist, told the jury that Mr Carr died of a heart attack. "A tube to the heart had an 80 per cent blockage. Pains in the chest often cause panic. Middle-aged men who feel chest pains think, 'Am I going to have a heart attack?' "

Mrs Carr told the hearing that she went to the hospital with her husband. "I never saw any doctors but I asked a nurse what was wrong and she told me he had had an anxiety attack. And I said 'Him? Never.' "

Mr Carr's stepson, Anthony, told the inquest: "My stepfather was not a stressful person. Nothing seemed to bother him."

The inquest, which is expected to last several days, continues.

CHRIS HARRIS



Beverley Davis, who wants to join the RFU's general committee, yesterday

Rugby's rulers sued over 'sexism'

BY MARIANNE CURPHEY

THE English Rugby Football Union was yesterday accused in court of treating women members as second-class citizens, by a female official who is campaigning to join its national committee.

Beverley Davis, 35, said her ambition to be the first woman to join the general committee had been scuppered by sex discrimination. She is seeking an injunction in Brentford County Court, which covers the RFU's headquarters at Twickenham, restraining it from acting against her efforts to stand as a representative for Cornwall. Judge Bishop will give his decision today.

Mrs Davis, who earns £20,000-a-year as a dentist in Helston, Cornwall, appeared at court yesterday wearing the black blazer of the Cornish RFU. She has served on Helston Rugby Club's committee for 11 years and is on the Cornwall RFU's full committee.

Dinah Rose, for Mrs Davis, said although her client had been nominated to stand as a representative for Cornwall, the Cornish RFU had been telling its members there was no point in voting for her because legal advice suggested she would not be allowed to take her place on the board. She argued for an injunction that would prevent the RFU treating Mrs Davis less favourably because she was a woman. She is being supported in the case by the Equal Opportunities Commission.

Miss Rose said the RFU had stated in a letter in November that women were unequivocally not eligible to sit on the committee. "This was the message loud and clear from the RFU until last Thursday," she said. A letter received last week said the RFU had not yet made a decision on Mrs Davis's case.

Mrs Davis agreed in court that if she were elected and the RFU was later found to have been acting lawfully in banning her from sitting on the committee, she would step down and would be prepared to pay damages to the RFU. Judge Bishop said he was concerned that any injunction he made would have far-reaching effects.

World Cup bids, page 44

Television faces new rules on privacy

BY ALEXANDRA FREAN
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

THE journalistic practice of "door-stepping" public figures or people in the news outside their homes is to be curtailed under new guidelines for commercial television programme-makers.

The rules, contained in the Independent Television Commission's programme code, will ban journalists from seeking impromptu interviews on private property without the subject's prior consent unless they can prove there is a serious public interest. The guidelines will also make it mandatory for programme-makers to warn subjects when they are going to put criminal or other serious allegations to them on camera unless the journalist can claim to have "good reason" for not making a prior approach.

A spokeswoman for the commission, which regulates and licenses commercial channels, said the guidelines had been framed in response to complaints by viewers and people in the news, and also at the request of broadcasters who wished to clarify the rules surrounding the use of investigative journalism. The new code was condemned by John Stoneborough, who advises people on how to deal with intrusive media inquiries.

He said: "The guidelines on door-stepping cover only private property. As soon as a person steps on to the pavement to get to their car or catch a bus, they become fair game for a camera crew."

Watchdog 'wrong to criticise BBC film'

BY A STAFF REPORTER

THE Broadcasting Complaints Commission acted beyond its powers when it severely criticised the BBC over a controversial documentary about young mothers, the High Court was told yesterday. The Panorama programme *Babies on Benefit*, shown in September 1993, alleged that single girls were deliberately getting pregnant in order to leap-frog council waiting lists and obtain extra state handouts.

An investigation was launched by the commission after protests from the National Council for One-Parent Families. The programme was widely regarded as hardening the Government's attitude to single mothers. Yesterday Michael Beloff, QC, for the BBC, challenged the commission's adjudication that the documentary was "misleading and unfair".

He argued that the adjudication should be quashed because the council lacked "a direct interest" in the broadcast and said its complaint should never have been considered. The BBC believes the outcome of its application for judicial review is crucial as the adjudication threatens the freedom of expression of programme makers.

Mr Beloff argued that, under the 1990 Broadcasting Act, only "a person affected" by a programme, or someone authorised to act on such a person's behalf, was entitled to complain. The hearing continues.

Princess Alice ends her county years

BY ALAN HAMILTON

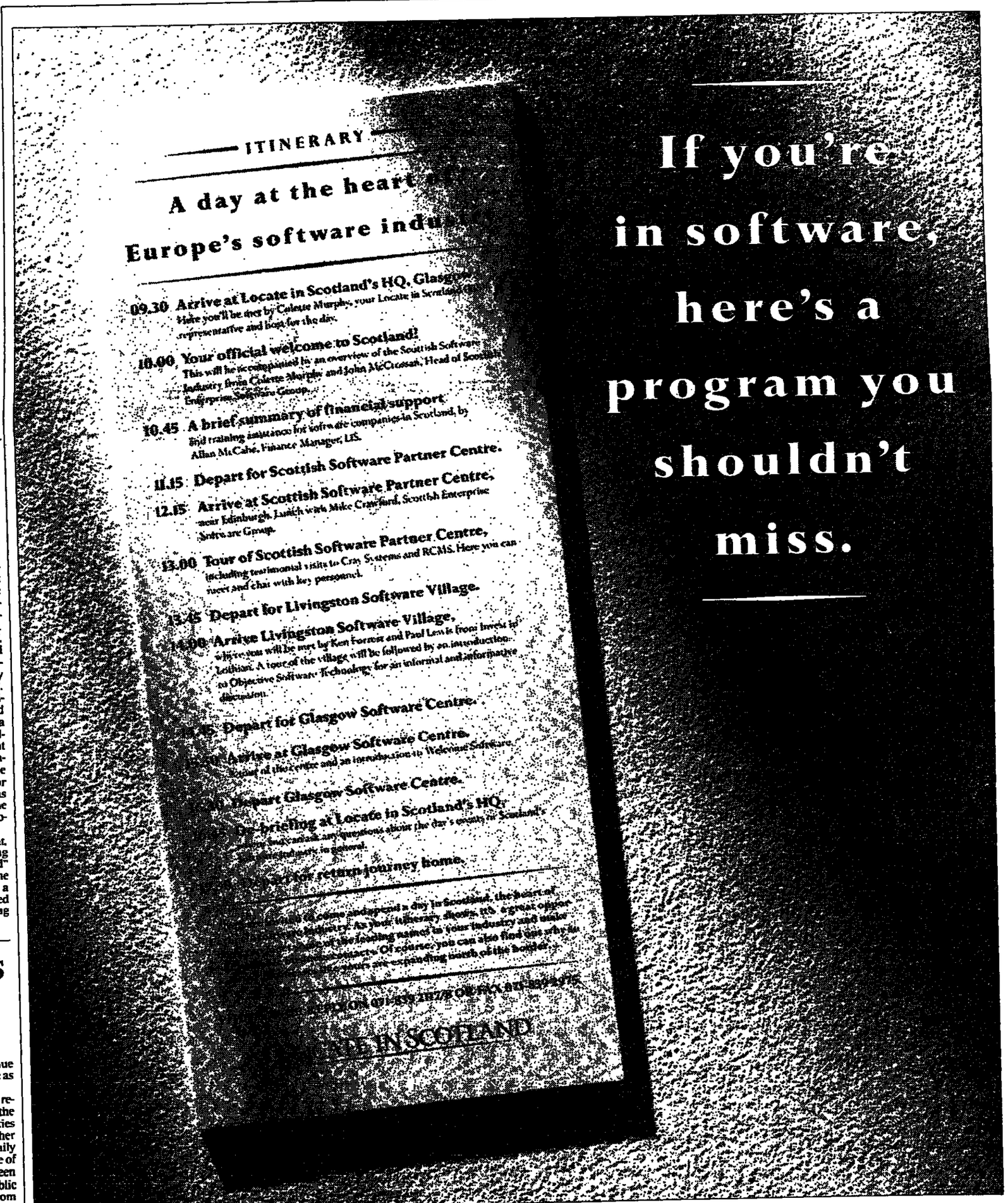
A SIXTY-year royal connection with Northamptonshire ended yesterday as the removal men arrived to transport the belongings of Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester, to London.

Princess Alice, who at 93 is the oldest surviving member of the Royal Family after the Queen Mother, is moving to Kensington Palace from Barnwell Manor, the 16th-century house near Peterborough that has been her country home since her marriage to the Duke of Gloucester, younger brother of King George VI, in 1935. Princess Alice has taken a holiday in Scotland while her possessions are moved.

The present duke, younger son of the princess, decided recently that the upkeep of the house, built by Sir Edward Montagu in 1580 but much remodelled since, was too expensive. The 40-room house may be sold or let, although the duke intends to continue running its 2,500 acre estate as a commercial farm.

Princess Alice used to receive an allowance from the Civil List for her public duties but in common with all other members of the Royal Family except the Queen, the Duke of Edinburgh and the Queen Mother, her occasional public duties are now funded from the Queen's private resources. The present duke, who succeeded to the title after the death of his elder brother, Prince William of Gloucester, in a flying accident in 1972, has always had his public duties funded by the Queen.

Alice Christabel Montagu Douglas Scott was the daughter of the 7th Duke of Buccleuch, one of Britain's largest private landowners. Barnwell had belonged to a branch of her family and the public house in the adjacent village still bears the name Montagu Arms.



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Guide points GPs to best services in an attempt to redress Britain's 'dreadful record'

Breast cancer directory seeks to end 'care lottery'

By Nigel Hawkes, Science Editor

A NEW guide to breast cancer services aims to end the "lottery of care" that has given Britain the world's highest mortality from the disease.

The guide, launched yesterday by the Cancer Relief Macmillan Fund, lists the services offered by 216 hospitals, 94 per cent of the acute hospitals in the country. It will be sent to all 35,000 GPs to help them to choose the most appropriate hospitals to which to send patients.

The directory does not contain the success rate of different hospitals — no such information is available to patients — but enables a comparison to be made on the basis of the services they offer.

It lists, for example, how many of the important staff are permanently on-site, including specialist surgeons, radiologists, pathologists, oncologist or radiotherapists, and breast care nurses. It also includes the number of cases treated annually at each hospital, the facilities on-site and how quickly the results of diagnostic tests are available.

Douglas Scott, the fund's chief executive, said that the Macmillan Directory of Breast Cancer Services was "an opportunity to improve our dreadful record so that we no longer carry the shame of having the highest breast cancer mortality in the world". The directory was one of five initiatives launched yesterday at a conference in London organised by the fund.

The survey on which the directory is based, carried out by the King's Fund, shows that facilities vary widely. One in twelve of the hospitals has no specialist breast surgeon, one in eight no radiologist with a specific interest in the disease and one in seven no oncologist or radiotherapist specialising in breast cancer.

Even so, Christine Farrell of the King's Fund said, the survey probably presented too favourable a picture, as it was based on forms filled in by doctors and managers of individual hospitals. "Now that it is published it can be seen as a target," she said. "GPs and women can push hospitals to meet the standards of care they claim are available."

A big criticism has been that many women are treated in hospitals that see too few cases a year to be efficient but the survey does not appear to support this charge. "The number of hospitals with very few cases is very small indeed," Ms Farrell said. The figures also show that 71 per cent of women can expect a clear diagnosis in less than a week.

But Professor Roger Blamey, of the British Association of Surgical Oncology, said there remained a wide gulf between the best and worst practices in diagnosis and management. "At best a woman who finds a breast lump may be able to be seen in a specialist clinic on the day after she consults her GP and receive all the diagnostic tests necessary and be assured she is not suffering from breast cancer at the one visit," he said.

"At worst she may be referred to a non-specialist general surgical unit, have to wait three months for an appointment, be referred for a mammogram weeks later, be seen several times by junior staff who can't decide what to do, and finally receive an inappropriate operation for the removal of her lump."

A committee chaired by Professor Blamey has drawn up guidelines for surgeons in the management of breast cancer, while a working party of the British Breast Group, of which he was a member, has recommended in a report that the best way to provide services is in a specialised unit. Both these documents were launched yesterday. Dr Michael Richards, of Guy's and St Thomas's Hospital in London, who chaired the BBG committee, says that the absolute minimum number of cases to be treated by any unit should be 50 a year.

Since only one in every ten women referred to specialists is found to have cancer, that would mean such a unit would have a minimum of 500 women referred every year. About 250 units would be needed to cover the country. Dr Richards said, with each one serving a population of between 200,000 and 300,000.

The directory is intended for professional guidance and is not available to members of the public. Patients should consult it through their GPs, or by telephoning the National Health Information Service on 0800 665544.

Body & Mind, page 13

ROBIN MAYES



Dr Michael Richards, of Guy's and St Thomas's, wants 250 specialist units nationwide, each seeing at least 500 women a year

Twelve arrested in motorway protest

Twelve people were arrested yesterday as bailiffs evicted protesters from a row of terraced cottages that stands in the path of a planned motorway extension.

About 60 protesters clambered on to the roofs of the cottages or chained themselves in the basement of the building, in Darwen, near Blackburn, Lancashire. About 100 police were supporting Andrew Wilson, the High Sherriff of Lancashire, as he enforced a court order to make way for the second phase of the M65 extension.

Needle claim

Marice Tipper, 36, is suing a supermarket in Barnstaple, Devon, after claiming she found a 1.5cm needle in an apple. The mother of three says she cut her mouth on what looked like the broken end of a hypodermic syringe.

Police cell death

A French national of Moroccan descent has been found hanged in a police cell in Camborne, Cornwall, after being charged with attempted rape. The man, who has not been named, was due before magistrates yesterday.

Ship wrecker

A £3 million crane was wrecked yesterday after it was hit by a container ship being towed into Southampton docks. The 400-tonne structure was sent crashing to the ground but there were no injuries.

Body in road

Police are trying to trace the mother of a new-born boy whose decomposed body was found yesterday in the middle of a road in the West Cross area of Swansea. Detectives believe an animal dragged the body from a nearby park.

Murder charge

A 16-year-old boy was remanded in custody by Rhondda youth court charged with murder and attempted murder after two men were stabbed in an argument at an Indian restaurant in Porth, Mid Glamorgan.

Killed by wheel

A driver was killed yesterday after a wheel from a lorry bounced across the central reservation of a motorway and smashed into his van. The accident happened near junction 23 of the M62 outside Brighouse, West Yorkshire.

Potteries tremor

A tremor measuring 2.5 on the Richter Scale shook a large area of Stoke-on-Trent yesterday. Shifting mine-workings have caused disturbances in the Potteries in the past but yesterday's is thought to have been geological movement.

Chocolate theft

Police who stopped a driver in Manchester recovered 70 bars of Cadbury's Dairy Milk, 59 Galaxy bars and 20 bars of Cadbury's Fruit and Nut allegedly stolen from an M6 service station. A man aged 25 is due to appear in court today.

Sex clinic to treat potential offenders

By Lucy Berrington

A PIONEERING hospital unit that will treat potential long-term sex offenders before they start abusing children opened officially yesterday.

The country's first department of adolescent forensic psychiatry, at Newcastle General Hospital, Tyne and Wear, was set up after a national review of sex offender treatment programmes by the Department of Health in 1993. It aims to break the vicious circle in which many victims of sexual abuse grow up to be sex abusers.

Finlay Graham, consultant forensic psychologist at the unit, said that sex offenders usually began abusing in their early teens. "It makes sense to treat them at 14 rather than 40, when they might be set in their ways," he said. "By the time perpetrators are in their 40s they might have abused hundreds of victims and it is possible many of those victims will go on to become abusers."

Of a sample 100 cases of sex abusers aged 11 to 19 in the northeast of England, 41 per cent of them had been sexually abused. "We are trying to shift them back to a more normal train of sexual development," Mr Graham said.

The unit has been operating an outpatient programme for 18 months, resulting in a reduction in abusive behaviour estimated to be between 20 and 40 per cent.

The unit expects to treat up to 70 young sex offenders a year and will deal with children displaying other forms of aggression.



Bottomley: has urged nurses not to strike

Bottomley says funds are there for nurses

By A Staff Reporter

HEALTH authorities have the money to meet the nurses' annual pay rise in full, Virginia Bottomley, the Health Secretary, said yesterday. She insisted that nurses had nothing to fear from a pay deal in which the Government provided 1 per cent and health trusts are expected to fund 2 per cent.

Mrs Bottomley appeared to hint that strike action by nurses could threaten the future of a system where pay is set by an independent review body. The Royal College of Nursing has threatened to reconsider its no-strike stance in protest at the package, which it says will not be met in full and compares badly with doctors' pay rises this year.

Mrs Bottomley urged the nurses to give local negotiators a chance. She insisted: "The money is there in the system," and made it clear that the Government was determined to introduce local pay to help health trusts facing staff shortages to set more attractive salaries. "We are moving towards local pay ... virtually every national organisation does now have some form of flexible local pay," she said on BBC Radio 4's *The World at One*.

"I very much hope now that people will discuss locally, in a practical way, ways in which they can improve their job, ways in which they can discuss remuneration. I have already spoken to the health authorities to make sure that they make accommodations for fair and affordable remuneration for staff."

Mrs Bottomley said she believed nurses were "a long way" from taking industrial action and she hoped it would not happen. "For a professional group who so support the review body then to say that the Government has accepted the review body recommendations but we don't like it ... does raise rather longer-term questions about the review body which I don't really think nurses would want to do," she said.

Coroner calls for better Army safety

By Kathryn Knight

A CORONER yesterday called for improvements in Army safety standards after being told how two soldiers were killed during training. Private Marc Smith, 25, and Private James Willson, 18, both from The Devonshire and Dorset Regiment, were killed by armoured vehicles in separate incidents last year at the Suffield Army training area near Calgary, Canada.

Private Smith was crushed in June when a 26-ton Warrior personnel carrier drove over the back-up Land Rover he was in. The following month, Private Willson died after a 30-ton Warrior drove over his trench which collapsed and buried him alive.

Recording verdicts of accidental death on both soldiers, Nigel Neville-Jones, the coroner, told Poole Coroner's Court that there should be a major design change in the Warrior. He told the hearing he would be making several recommendations to Major-General Rob McAfee, the Director of Army Training, in particular for a new driver's hatch to improve visibility.

"Evidence was given during these inquests of the limited visibility of the Warrior ... I am of the opinion that the collisions would not have taken place had the Warriors been fitted with a new driver's hatch, and I have recommended that they must be fitted." He also requested that trenches used during training should be marked more clearly.

The coroner added that while he understood the frustration of the victims' relatives, there had not been a cover-up during the Army investigation into what had happened.

However, Janet Smith, 48, Private Smith's mother, said she was unhappy with the verdict and did not feel that safety procedures were stringent enough.

Mrs Smith, who received a letter saying she was not entitled to compensation for her son's death as he was over 18, added: "I think cutting the funding to the forces has a lot to do with it. The Government has cut the expenses so much that it is not prepared to pay for the training it should give the lads."

Mr Neville-Jones said that he would disclose more recommendations after the inquest next month into another soldier who died at the training ground.

Clegg starts fight to stay in forces

By Michael Evans, Defence Correspondent

PRIVATE LEE CLEGG, the jailed paratrooper, has begun his fight to stay in the Army despite his conviction for shooting dead a young woman joyrider in West Belfast in 1990. Private Clegg, who was served with his discharge papers by the Army, spent the weekend composing his case for remaining a member of the Parachute Regiment.

Yesterday, Simon McKay, Private Clegg's solicitor, visited him in Wakefield prison to help him to complete his formal application to stay on as a soldier.

Lieutenant-Colonel Malcolm Worsley-Tonks, commanding officer of the 3rd Battalion Parachute Regiment, visited Private Clegg last Friday and outlined his rights of appeal against discharge.

Mr McKay said: "He was given the application form for discharge which has a section enabling him to say why he thinks he should be retained in the Army. He has to give a personal account of the [shooting] incident." Mr McKay said the form would be sent to the Army Board which would make the final decision.

Representations on Private Clegg's behalf will also be sent to the Army Board by Mr McKay and the former members of the Parachute Regiment who are campaigning for his release.

Private Clegg was jailed for life in 1993 for the murder of Karen Reilly, 18, one of two teenagers killed when an Army patrol opened fire on a stolen car as it drove at speed through a vehicle checkpoint. His conviction was upheld by the Law Lords in January.

Mr McKay is still gathering new evidence which he hopes will cast doubt on the conviction. He is in the process of interviewing new witnesses to the incident.

Yesterday he said that he expected to be in a position to present the fresh evidence to Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Northern Ireland Secretary, in about ten weeks. Sir Patrick is examining the trial records and other documents to see whether he can bring forward the date for Private Clegg's first parole review, which could lead to the 26-year-old paratrooper being freed on licence.

Mr McKay said: "The Secretary of State has been doing this for a month already and I think that should be enough time to make a decision."

Your money or her life



Sarjubai's life is at risk. When her husband died, Sarjubai struggled to raise her son, working whenever she could to support them both. She is now 81, and years of labour have taken their toll. Too weak to work, she sought refuge with her son, but he is too poor to provide her with anything other than shelter. With no income or savings, Sarjubai is forced to beg.

Will you now give Sarjubai the future she deserves, will you become her sponsor? Just £10 a month ensures she receives food, medicines and clothing. In return, you will receive a photograph of your 'grandparent' and regular updates showing the difference your sponsorship is making.

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Road verges are Britain's biggest wildlife sanctuary

By Michael Hornsby
Countryside Correspondent

ROAD verges have become a sanctuary for endangered animals and wild flowers and should be cared for in a manner befitting Britain's biggest nature reserve, conservationists said yesterday.

Less than 2 per cent of the 511,500 acres of grassland, scrub and trees — an area equal to the size of Berkshire — beside roads is being managed properly for wildlife, the researchers claimed in a new report. Among the rarities found on verges are the early spider orchid, the adonis blue butterfly, the sand lizard, the nightingale and the dormouse.

Chris Baines, an environmental campaigner and broadcaster, who unveiled the report by The Wildlife Trusts, an alliance of county-based conservation charities, said: "Apart from their conservation value, roadsides are the most visible bit of the countryside. For some people the only cowslips they see are viewed from a car window as they sit in traffic.

"Better verge management is essential. In some places it makes sense to let road margins become overgrown with scrub and trees, which can provide habitat for birds and animals, but elsewhere special mowing techniques are required to keep down rank grasses without harming flowers."

The report says: "As farm productivity rose, wildlife was squeezed to the edge of the no-man's land of the roadside verge. Verges offer huge potential for conservation." Verges have become a sanctuary for voles, field mice and other small mammals on which kestrels, owls and other birds of prey depend. For barn owls, which hunt low over the ground, this has brought a new danger — collision with traffic — which may outweigh the value of verges as a food source. Motorways are estimated by the report to account for 44,500 acres of verge, trunk roads for 29,600 acres and minor roads for 437,400 acres. The powers of government agencies and departments to promote verge management are described as "weak and fragmented".

Tony Sangwine, head of environmental management and design at the Highways Agency, said yesterday: "We think we have a good record of managing the 75,000 acres of verge in our care but many local highway authorities are under severe budgetary restraint."



Verges have become a haven for the dormouse

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Tory councillors set to defy government limits on spending

BY IAN MURRAY, COMMUNITY CORRESPONDENT

TORY councillors in some of the shires will vote to set illegal council budgets this week, spearheading a growing rebellion against the clampdown on local government spending.

Oxfordshire, which led the anti-poll tax movement, has already decided to breach the government capping limit of £316 million when it meets today. The only question is by how much.

One proposal, backed by the Liberal Democrats and expected to win some Conservative support on the hung council, is to exceed the capped level by the extra £1.8 million needed for education and hope that the Government will nod it through. The other proposal, backed by Labour and some Liberal Democrats, is to set a budget £7 million over the limit.

The county was to have set its budget a week ago but postponed a decision until today in the hope that the Government might yield to public pressure and increase the capping limit after protest among school governors and a half-day strike by teachers.

Tomorrow the hung council in Gloucestershire will choose between a Tory-backed budget to add £4 million to the permitted £300 million level or a Labour-backed proposal to maintain spending at existing levels and breach the cap by £22 million. The Liberal Democrats, who normally control the council with Labour support, have formed a pact with the Tories over their preferred budget, which would add nothing to council tax.

In Shropshire, another county controlled through a Liberal Democrat coalition with Labour, Conservatives have joined a common front in setting a budget that breaches the cap by £6 million. The council has pruned £7 million from its spending to achieve that and Friday's council meeting is expected to back the proposed illegal budget unanimously.

It would mean an extra £50 a year on Band D council tax but a MORI poll conducted by the county last autumn showed that 60 per cent of voters would be prepared to pay at least that much extra to maintain services at present levels. Only 24 per cent said they would rather see services cut.

Kent, whose £1.2 billion budget is one of the largest in England, intends to cut the £60 million needed to avoid being capped. The Conservatives, who lost control of the county two years ago for the first time in more than a century, are attacking the unpopular Liberal Democrat-Labour plans to cut education by £9 million to balance the books. But a council spokesman said: "From the letters we have received from the public it is clear that it is not the county council they are objecting to, but the Government."



Mitchell: died of cancer before Battle of Britain

Spitfire's creator is honoured 60 years on

BY JOHN YOUNG

THE creator of the Spitfire, who died before his aircraft attained its finest hour in the Battle of Britain, is to be officially honoured nearly 60 years after his death.

The Royal Mint is to issue a commemorative medallion, and the Royal Mail a commemorative postal label, to mark the centenary of the birth of Reginald Joseph Mitchell, who died of cancer at the age of 42 in 1937. Recognition of Mitchell's achievement is the result of a tireless campaign by his son Dr Gordon Mitchell, 74, a retired university lecturer.

Although Mitchell is commemorated at the Royal Air Force museum in Hendon, north London, and at the City museum in Stoke-on-Trent, his son felt that national recognition was lacking. At his home in Gloucestershire yesterday *Dr Mitchell said he had hoped that a posthumous medal could be awarded to his father but was told that posthumous awards could be given only for gallantry, not for outstanding achievement.*

"I was disappointed but I asked the Royal Mail if they could issue a special stamp to mark the hundredth anniversary of my father's birth on May 20," he said. "They were committed to a set of VE Day stamps around that time but they wanted to do something so they have come up with this label.

The label will carry a picture of his father and of a Spitfire overflying a plan of the Mitchell-designed seaplane that represented Britain in the pre-war Schneider Trophy. The medallion will bear his father's portrait on one side and a Spitfire on the other.

"My father was a very modest man but I think he would have been rather proud," Dr Mitchell said.



One of the first Spitfires in a show flight at Hendon in 1936, when it was the world's fastest fighter plane

Islanders seek to break from Scots

BY GILLIAN BOWDITCH, SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

ISLANDERS in Orkney and Shetland are calling for a referendum on independence from the rest of Scotland. The leaders of the two island councils are to meet in a fortnight to discuss a blueprint for a new island kingdom. The Western Isles are also likely to be included in the talks.

The islanders are worried that their culture and way of life will be damaged if Scotland gets home rule. Many Orkney islanders feel they have more in common with Norway than the Scottish mainland — the islands were once a Norse earldom.

If Labour wins the next election, the islanders want a referendum to decide whether to retain government from Westminster, become part of a devolved Scotland ruled from Edinburgh or opt for self-rule.

The initiative has been taken by Hugh Halcro-Johnston, convenor of Orkney Island Council. "It's very important that the right of the island communities to choose is recognised," he said. "Rule from London and rule from Edinburgh can seem equally remote."

Malcolm Green, chief executive of Shetland Island Council, said: "There is certainly concern about increasing centralisation. We are used to dealing with the Scottish Office but we are ruled from Westminster," he said.

Jim Wallace, Liberal Democrat MP for Orkney and Shetland, said he believed Mr Halcro-Johnston's inititive was timely. He was in favour of a referendum but wanted enough safeguards introduced in a Scottish parliament to ensure that the islands' special status was maintained.

"At the end of the day it depends on the will of the people," he said.

Donald Mackay, convenor of the Western Isles Council, said that the Western Isles did not have the oil-revenues on which the wealth of Orkney and Shetland are based but was keen to discuss the idea of independence.

Shetland, Orkney and the Western Isles at present enjoy special status as the only single-tier authorities in Scotland. From April next year all Scotland's local authorities will be unitary and Orkney fears there will be serious implications with greater interference and a reduction in its powers.

Boy, 13, accused of car chase deaths

BY A STAFF REPORTER

A BOY aged 13, the youngest person in Britain to be charged with causing death by dangerous driving, appeared in court yesterday. The boy, who cannot be named, was driving a Ford Escort that crashed while being pursued by police in Nottingham last November.

His two passengers, Gem Akdemir, 16, and Steven Seagrave, 14, both from Nottingham, died when the car collided head-on with a pick-up truck. The car had been followed by police vehicles for two miles and had been seen weaving in and out of traffic at up to 50mph.

The driver had to be cut free and was taken to hospital with a broken thigh, fractured arm and shattered pelvis. Police had to wait until the 13-year-old was fit enough before charging him with two offences of causing death by dangerous driving.

He also faces charges of driving while disqualified and without insurance. Yesterday the teenager appeared for the first before before Nottingham Youth Court. Accompanied by his father, the teenager leant on a walking stick as the charges were put to him.

The case was adjourned for a month for committal to the Crown Court. The boy was granted bail.

Motorcycle joyrider jailed for 18 months

BY A STAFF REPORTER

A JOYRIDER who drove a motorcycle the wrong way up the M1 to escape police after a 60-mile chase was yesterday jailed for 18 months.

Stuart Atkin, 20, who was disqualified from driving and on bail at the time, was eventually caught when he crashed into a patrol car. Sentencing him, Judge Hawarth said: "You took a powerful motorcycle and you drove at speeds in excess of 150mph up and down the motorway.

"And for a period of half an hour you weaved through traffic and rode through a rolling roadblock at 135mph. It is as bad a case of aggravated vehicle-taking as I have come across."

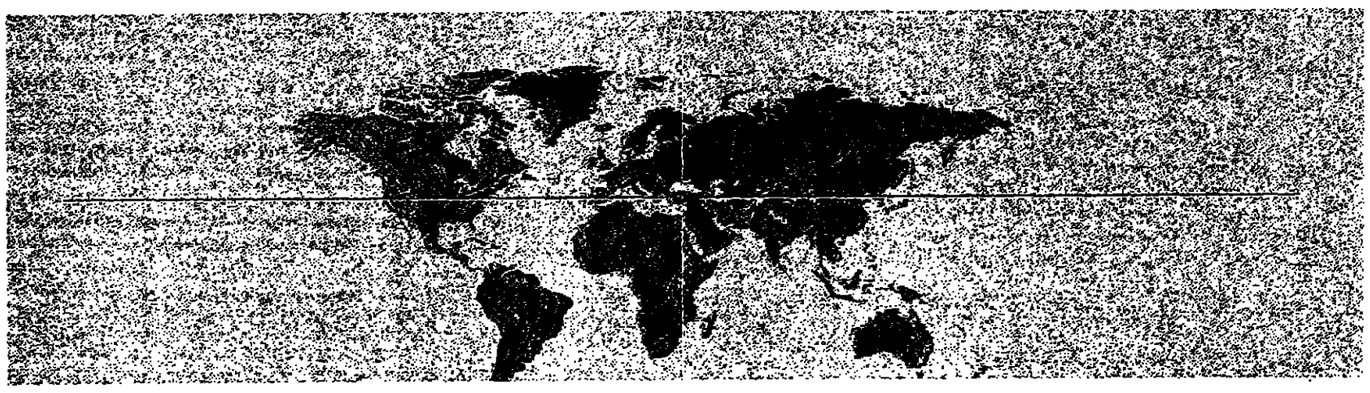
Earlier this month Atkin, of Loughton, Essex, admitted taking a Suzuki GSXR 750cc motorcycle on October 2 last year. Police spotted him as he sped away from a petrol station in Brentwood, Essex, without paying.

A police helicopter tracked him up the M1 to Luton, Bedfordshire, where he turned around and headed south. At Staples Corner, north London, Atkin turned round again but mistakenly headed north on the southbound carriageway of the M1 before crashing into an oncoming police car, injuring two officers.

APOLOGY ANNOUNCEMENT

Thompson & Morgan apologise for the misprint in their advertisement for Nasturtium plants in the Sunday Times Magazine of 19/2/95. The coupon should state 5 plants @ £9.99 and 10 plants @ £17.90.

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Major an uncertain element in battle to prove the prophets wrong

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

Is John Major's position irrecoverable? The consensus of most MPs, civil servants and commentators is that the Tories are doomed to lose the next election. The omens are not good: their opinion poll ratings remain dismal, the Cabinet and the party are deeply divided over Europe and the Government gives the impression of staleness and drift. The economy may have recovered but personal incomes have been squeezed, the housing market is flat and interest rates are now rising again.

The historical precedents are equally gloomy. Anthony Seldon, the leading historian of post-war Conservatism, wrote a fascinating article in *The Sunday Times* identifying factors which had been common to party decay and loss of office this century: a loss of direction and purpose; splits; a weak party organisation; a revivified opposition; a loss of popular, intellectual and press support; and, in recent cases, disillusionment with the running of the economy. Most, if not all, were present with the Tory defeats in 1906, 1945 and 1964 — and I would add 1974. All six are present now.

It is hard to see many of these trends being reversed over the next two years. After 16 years in office, it is very difficult for any party to reinvent itself and provide new vigour and direction. Although Norman Blackwell, the new head of the Policy Unit, has a reputation as a clear strategic analyst, he is not seen as a generator of fresh ideas. The party's splits on Europe seem unlikely to disappear soon. The strained attempts yesterday by Kenneth Clarke and Michael Portillo not to say anything controversial were reminiscent of the immortal episode of *Fawlty Towers* when Basil tripped himself up in not talking about the war to German guests. The truce will not last.

Conservative Central Office is doing its best to sharpen up the party orgnisation in key marginal seats, but party activists are confused and battered and fund-raising is difficult. By contrast, Labour membership is recovering. Although with Labour there is always the chance of a breakdown of self-discipline, and a defeat for the leadership on some sensitive policy issues, such as public ownership, there is now a widespread will to win, even among those who do not share Tony Blair's views. The Government has also become unfashionable in the same way that the Macmillan and Home Governments were in 1962-64. Much of the press may have become more critical of Mr Blair but it remains, with a few exceptions, very hostile to Mr Major.

The Tories' main hope is that the public will become more satisfied with its handling of the economy. After the latest increases in interest rates and the last instalment of tax rises, real disposable incomes should start rising again. And there should be tax cuts in the November Budget. One Tory view, held by Michael Heseltine and some in Central Office, is that the public have short memories, 12 to 18 months at most, and will forget the earlier economic pain by a spring 1997 election — if the parliament lasts that long given the current rate of by-elections. The Tories may always have the edge on tax, but the margin is bound to be narrower next time after the current tax increases.

The uncertain element in these calculations is Mr Major himself. As Mr Seldon, who is writing a biography of the Prime Minister, argues, he is "the most underestimated of all post-war premiers — a more astute and robust leader than Balfour or Home". Mr Major is a skilful tactician and manager of his Cabinet and proved to be a determined, and impressive, fighter during the 1992 general and the 1994 European elections. Just keeping the show on the road until the election will not be enough. He needs to take some risks, as he is rightly doing over Northern Ireland.

PETER RIDDELL

Bottomley to spend extra £85m on capital's healthcare

BY ALICE THOMSON AND JAMES LANDALE

THE government is to provide an extra £85 million for primary health care in the most needy areas of London over the next two years.

Virginia Bottomley, the Health Secretary, told the Commons last night that the money would improve primary care premises, especially GPs' surgeries. It would also pay for a GPs' education programme and increase the range of services that they can offer.

During an Opposition debate on the future of healthcare in London, Mrs Bottomley also announced that an extra £10 million would be spent next year for care in the community schemes to help London's mentally ill.

She told MPs that she wanted London to have the sort of GP facilities and community teams that were already common in the rest of Britain. "We want more and better GPs, providing more services."

Opening the debate, Margaret Beckett, the Shadow Health Secretary, angered Tory MPs by accusing government ministers of being like soccer hooligans. Pointing to what she described as the "disintegration and collapse" of a once world-beating health care service in London, she said: "As with football, so with healthcare. London is now in danger of being relegated to the international second division."

To Tory jeers of "bad taste" she continued: "Like hooligans at a Chelsea-Millwall match, the Government set out wilfully to vandalise a service that was once orderly, well managed and widely supported. And the question we want to ask is the same question as that behind inquiries into the recent England-*Ireland game: is the* Government's sabotage of London's health service the action of mindless vandals or are they motivated by extreme right-wing ideology?

"Just like many of the troublemakers at our football matches, the Government is driven by a right-wing ideology which they coldly and deliberately calculate will wreak havoc on our public health service. And like many of football's troublemakers, they are carrying out their strategy with stealth and in furtive secrecy."

Mrs Beckett said that five years ago London was the undisputed healthcare capital of Europe but now it was gripped by crisis and faced an exodus of medical talent under the Government's reforms and changes. Bed closures were proceeding at breakneck speed with 7,000 acute beds lost between 1982 and 1990 and a further 3,200 since then — amounting to a loss of 39 per cent of all acute beds in the capital in the past 13 years and demanded a moratorium on future bed closures.

Calling for a fresh review on London's healthcare, she said: "The Government has abandoned its duty to those who live and work in London and failed to provide strategic planning for the capital's health needs."

The Health Secretary *rubbished Mrs Beckett's analogy*, saying that the Government would not shy away from what needed to be done to the health service and she accused the Opposition of "vacillation and evasion".

Mrs Bottomley faced criticism from her own back benches when she clashed with Sir John Gorst (C, Hendon North) who asked her to help him to reconcile her "logic and information" with the "illogical feelings" of his constituents "who are unanimous against the proposals which you are puting forward". To Labour cheers, Sir John demanded: "Is there any alternative but for me to represent their views in the lobbies in a different way from the way in which you would wish me to?"

The Government defeated the Opposition motion calling *for a moratorium on hospital* bed closures by 282 votes to 229, a majority of 53.



Looking up: Mrs Shephard outlining how teachers might assess their superiors

Head teachers could face appraisal by their staff

BY BEN PRESTON, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

TEACHERS could be asked to mark their school head's performance as part of a government drive to improve the quality of leadership the state sector.

Gillian Shephard, the Education Secretary, announced plans yesterday to ensure that head teachers have better training and that their effectiveness is monitored more closely. The move reflects her conviction that head teachers are the most important influence on schools and that their role is critical in raising standards.

Mrs Shephard told a London conference organised by the Industrial Society that her officials were developing a scheme with teaching unions to identify young "head teachers in waiting". She said it was designed to take people before they became deputy heads and groom them for the responsibility of running schools with budgets sometimes exceeding £2 million.

The scheme would help counter criticism that under local management of schools teachers promoted out of the classroom have struggled with the arduous administrative and financial responsibilities of headship. Details of a separate initiative to give new head teachers vouchers worth more than £2,500 to spend on training will be announced shortly.

Mrs Shephard urged school governors to scrutinise the performance of head teachers more rigorously. She said that schools were free to invite classroom teachers to judge their superiors' performance as part of "upward appraisal" schemes, which are increasingly common in the private sector.

All-party group puts case for federal Europe

BY JAMES LANDALE, POLITICAL REPORTER

A CROSS-PARTY group of pro-Europeans launched a counter-attack against the Tory Euro-sceptics yesterday with a report that presented a strong case for a federal Europe.

The *State of the Union*, compiled by a group of MPs, MEPs, peers and academics under the auspices of the Federal Trust research body, gave a warning that the European Union would founder if the Government's "minimalist approach" to the 1996 intergovernmental conference (IGC) was allowed to succeed.

Presenting the report, Lord Jenkins of Hillhead, the Liberal Democrat peer and former European Commission president, said that the Government had to decide "whether it wants to make Europe work or obstruct it". The report says that if the Government blocks further integration a federal core of countries led by France and Germany will leave Britain behind, especially in the creation of a single currency.

Lord Jenkins said that the Government would have to give up its right of veto if its widely supported policies of EU enlargement to the east and reform of the common agricultural policy were to succeed. He said an EU of up to 30 countries would be paralysed unless Britain, and the other member states, gave up the right to say "no" on any issue.

"The 1996 IGC offers member states the chance to increase the Union's democracy, efficiency, to build public confidence and to prepare for further enlargement," Lord Jenkins said. "To achieve this, the Union needs to have at its centre a core of governments committed to integration." If Britain would not do this, he said, we must at least avoid a "wrecking" role.

"But this is very much a second best, for it leads us straight down the dreary road which we have so often followed in the past: decline to join at the beginning, let the others shape the future and then come in belatedly and half-heartedly, complaining that the scheme does not exactly suit us."

Gorman tells MPs to defy the whips

BY NICHOLAS WOOD, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Tory rebel Teresa Gorman urged MPs to support her this week in what will be the third Commons attempt in two years to force a referendum over Europe.

MPs will vote on Friday on her Private Member's Bill providing for a referendum to be held this year before the 1996 inter-governmental conference that will review the Maastricht treaty. The public would be asked to choose between a federal Europe with by a single currency and a community of sovereign states dedicated only to free trade.

Mrs Gorman, MP for Billericay, argues that holding a referendum before the IGC would end the Tory party infighting and strengthen John Major's hand in negotiations with continental leaders. Yesteday she urged members of all parties to vote on Friday, quoting Churchill at the time of Munich warning MPs against seeing themselves as "tame, docile, subservient" fodder for the whips.

The Liberal Demorats' attempt to secure a referendum failed to win support last week and a vote during the passage of the Maastricht Bill in 1993 ended in a defeat by 241 votes.

Labour MPs offer rewritten Clause 4

BY JILL SHERMAN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

A GROUP of modernising Labour MPs yesterday proposed a new version of Clause Four calling for "social ownership" of essential public services.

The group, New Agenda, which mooted the idea of altering the party's nationalisation clause in 1993, has published a draft which it argues is in line with Tony Blair's attempts to update the party's constitution.

The draft, which is being sent out to all constituencies this week, says that the party is committed to a sustainable economy providing wealth and work for all and combining efficiency with social justice. It says: "We hold that this is best achieved by a partnership economy, with dynamic markets and active government in the public interest, including social ownership of essential public services."

New Agenda was set up in 1992, shortly after the general election and mainly comprises MPs elected that year. It includes Margaret Hodge, Malcolm Wicks, Nick Raynsford, Judith Church and Jeff Rooker, who are all considered as modernising MPs.

The group defines "social ownership" to include co-operative enterprises and greater regulation as well as traditional state ownership. Calum Macdonald, MP for Western Isles and one of the group's leaders, argued that the inclusion of the phrase would give the party "a useful tool in our armoury".

Although it would not commit the party to renationalising any public utilities it would leave Labour with the option of imposing greater regulation "or if there was a crisis in the industry" to bring them back into public control. Mr Macdonald insists that health should remain in the public sector *but suggests that water, gas* and electricity could be subject to greater regulatory control.

IN PARLIAMENT

YESTERDAY: In the Commons, questions to social security ministers, the Public Accounts Commission, the Commons Commission and the Commons Leader were followed by an Opposition debate on the "continuing crisis of healthcare in London" and the future ownership, control and regulation of regional electricity companies. The Lords debated the South Africa Bill, Pensions Bill and Central European Time Bill.

TODAY: In the Commons, questions to education ministers and the Prime Minister will be followed by a debate the Health Authorities Bill. The Lords will debate the committee stage of the Pensions Bill and the Civil Evidence (Family Mediation) (Scotland) Bill.

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TBS

German union holds strike ballot

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

IG METALL, Europe's largest industrial trade union, yesterday balloted members in preparation for an all-out strike in Germany's car factories, shipyards and steel foundries. The metal workers of Bavaria, ignoring government warnings about the economic implications of industrial action, appeared set to give the union the 75 per cent support needed for a strike.

The action could be confined to Bavaria — in which case it would almost certainly hit the BMW car factory and the aerospace industry — or could spread throughout Germany. That decision is essentially in the hands of Klaus Zwickel, chief of IG Metall, as he tries to squeeze from employers a 6 per cent wage rise. The Employers' Federation has not yet made a counter-offer and is insisting that any pay discussions should be prefaced by agreements



Blüm: action may hit economic recovery

on flexible working hours. Only Bavarian workers are being balloted at present, but their decision will be regarded as a guideline for the union's 3.8 million members. As workers walked into the early shift at the MTU engine factory in Munich yesterday, they complained that they had not received a real wage increase for two years.

Union leaders calculate their demand on an anticipated 2.5 per cent rise in inflation and a 3.5 per cent productivity increase. The workers, in the lead-up to last year's general election, were fed campaign boasts about how Germany was pulling out of recession.

Now the employers argue that a 6 per cent rise will force up labour costs, make Germany less competitive and push up unemployment, which hovers around 3.6 million. Norbert Blüm, the Labour Minister, said that a strike could hold up economic recovery. "The delicate spring shoots would be killed off by the frost of a strike. We would be set back by months." The betting is that there will be a last-minute settlement around 3 per cent.

Leading article, page 15

US to offer Yeltsin new security partnership

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

PRESIDENT CLINTON is to propose a new security deal with Russia in an attempt to allay Moscow's concerns over Nato plans to offer former Warsaw Pact countries alliance membership.

Mr Clinton is drafting a letter to President Yeltsin, outlining a closer partnership with Moscow which he expects Nato governments to endorse. Yesterday, Nato ambassadors met in Brussels to discuss the key elements of Mr Clinton's letter. Although Nato sources said Mr Clinton wanted to consult with alliance governments before sending the letter, it was clear that the initiative was Mr Clinton's and was not to be seen as a formal Nato offer.

There are fears within the alliance that Washington is trying to force the pace over the timetable for Nato enlargement and that the written promises of a more formal security relationship with Russia might be seized on by Mr Yeltsin as an offer of a special treaty with Moscow.

All alliance governments have accepted the principle of allowing countries such as Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic to join Nato as full members, but few are in any hurry to name the day. Similarly, there is a reluctance to offer Russia anything so formal as a treaty on security arrangements.

According to Nato sources, Mr Clinton wants to give a promise that the alliance will work with Moscow to design a new European security order; and that no East European country will be able to join Nato without prior consultation with Russia. So far, Nato has been adamant that Moscow would not be allowed to have a veto over alliance expansion. However, Mr Clinton is now clearly determined to impress on Mr Yeltsin that a larger Nato does not pose a threat to Russia's security.

Last December, Russia drew back from committing itself to a special military co-operation agreement based on Nato's *Partnership for Peace* scheme. Another document, guaranteeing enhanced dialogue on security issues, was also shelved when Andrei Kozyrev, the Russian Foreign Minister, refused to sign.

Russia's change of mind was caused by Moscow's continued suspicion about Nato's motives for wanting East European countries to join the alliance. Since then, the Russian army's suppression of rebel forces in Chechenia has further soured relations with the West and in his state of the union speech earlier this month, Mr Yeltsin again spoke against Nato expansion.

The unilateral decision by Mr Clinton to write to Mr Yeltsin indicates that he is prepared to put Chechenia behind him and to push ahead with new security arrangements. One alliance source said: "It is clear that the US Administration wants to put enlargement on the fast track and is seeking to buy off Russian opposition with an offer of some form of enhanced relationship."

Some Nato sources suggested the new offer to Moscow could result in a treaty embracing all aspects of future Russia-West relations.

Previous attempts to reassure Moscow that Nato enlargement would not pose a security threat have failed. Nato sources said that although Mr Clinton had telephoned Mr Yeltsin several times to reassure him, this was the first time he had decided to write to him formally on the subject.

Willy Claes, the Nato Secretary-General, also said it was time to define the parameters of a sustainable relationship with Moscow. "We must acknowledge Russia's weight in European security and its legitimate interests," he said in a signed article in the *Financial Times*. "We need a co-operative relationship."

Elysée fixer named in sleaze trial

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN PARIS

THE name of Michel Charasse, the most powerful adviser to President Mitterrand, has been dragged into the Lyons court where Michel Noir, the Mayor, and France's top television newsman are stars in the first big trial in France's crackdown on sleaze.

M Charasse, 53, a senator who has long operated as a behind-the-scenes fixer for M Mitterrand, has been accused by Patrick Poivre d'Arvor, the star newsman, and by Pierre Botton, the main defendant in the trial, of orchestrating their prosecution for political motives.

The court allegations, denied by M Charasse, coincided with startling new evidence in Paris of the degree to which officials in the Mitterrand administration had run an alleged spying operation on politicians, journalists, lawyers and celebrities in the 1980s.

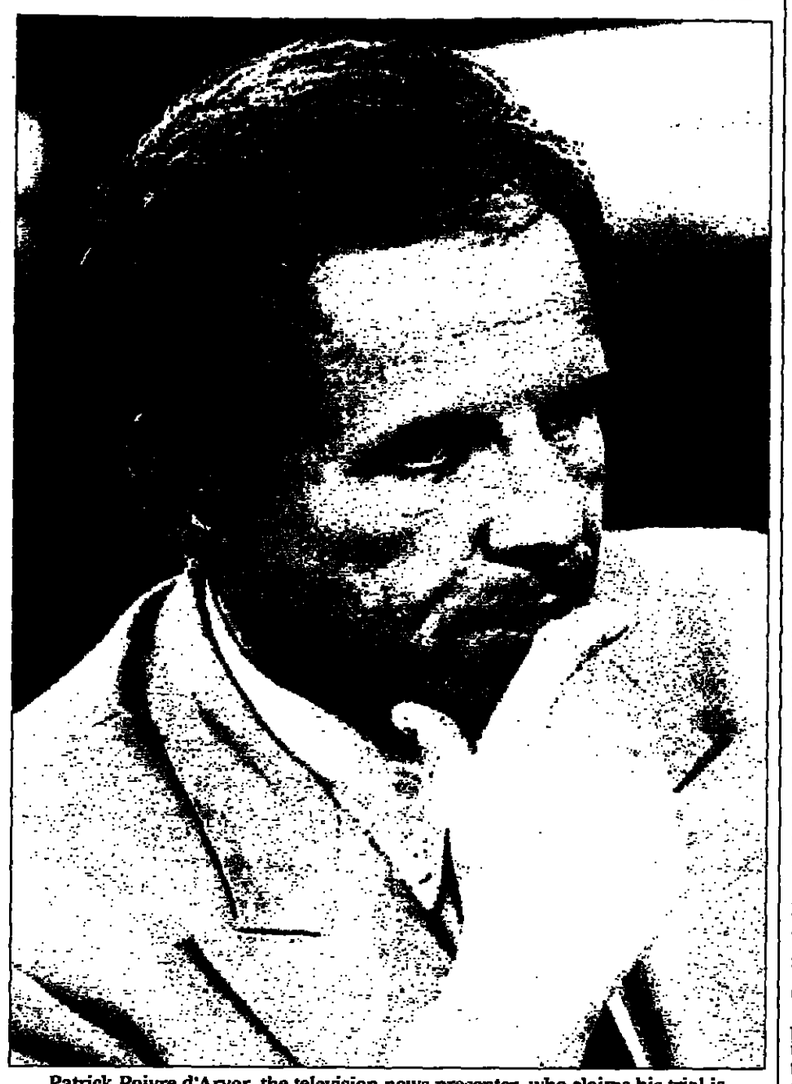
The allegations concerning M Charasse, who served as Budget Minister in the last Socialist Government, have added a whiff of high politics to a melodramatic trial.

M Noir, 51, a former Gaullist minister, is charged with accepting gifts from M Botton, 39, his son-in-law, in return for a promise of lucrative city contracts. M Botton, a businessman with a penchant for the high life, is charged with embezzling 48 million francs (£6 million) from his firms. M Poivre d'Arvor, 47, the most celebrated of the 12 defendants, is alleged to have accepted 537,000 francs of holidays, travel and entertainment from M Botton.

In the most emotional moment so far, M Noir, who is seeking re-election in June, poured out his hatred for the son-in-law whom he blames for trying to bring him down. At one stage, he asked his lawyer to read from a letter to M Botton by Valérie-Anne, his daughter, written at the height of the scandal.

"You are murdering us. I have decided to join my grandmother," she wrote. Since the grandmother is dead, the line was deemed to be a suicide threat.

M Charasse was questioned at length during the investigation into M Botton. According to media accounts, he told the investigators that as Budget Minister he had in fact delayed rather than accelerated the tax investigation which ignited the Lyons scandal. In court, M Botton said M Charasse had asked him to falsify his accounts in order to avoid implicating M Noir and other personalities.



Patrick Poivre d'Arvor, the television news presenter, who claims his trial is motivated by political revenge for criticism of the Mitterrand administration

M Poivre d'Arvor, whose words are taken as gospel by millions of viewers every evening, told the court that M Charasse had been angry over hostile reporting about the Mitterrand administration by TF1, the independent television network. According to M Poivre d'Arvor, it was common knowledge that M Charasse kept damaging files for use against media personalities who displeased the Elysée Palace.

In Paris Edouard Balladur, the Gaullist Prime Minister and presidential candidate, tried to distance himself from the row over his approval of telephone-tapping in a corruption investigation with heavy political overtones.

M Balladur yesterday suspended emergency wiretapping procedures, and a top police official resigned over the affair. In a communiqué, M Balladur said he would "suspend until further orders" requests for wiretapping that required his approval.

Jacques Franquet, the director of criminal investigations, handed his resignation to Charles Pasqua, the Interior Minister, yesterday because he wanted his office "to be sheltered from controversy".



Noir: poured out hatred for his son-in-law

WORLD SUMMARY

Serbs unite for spring offensive

London: Serbs in Bosnia and Croatia yesterday announced a military pact binding them to aid each other if attacked (Eve-Ann Prentice, Diplomatic Correspondent, writes).

They also formed a joint "supreme defence council" aimed at increasing military co-operation, to be led by Radovan Karadzic, the Bosnian Serb leader, and Milan Martic, the Croatian Serb leader. Council members will include their Prime Minister, Interior and Defence ministers, and army chiefs.

The move comes as all sides in the Bosnian conflict are believed to be rearming for a spring offensive.

The pact is likely to worry President Tudjman of Croatia, who has declared he will not renew the mandate for United Nations peacekeepers in his republic when it expires at the end of next month — a move that risks a fresh flare-up.

Chechenia 'ruin of democracy'

Moscow: Political opponents of the Russian Government launched a verbal assault against the Kremlin as parliamentarians yesterday opened what could become a damaging public inquiry into the bungled Chechenia campaign (Richard Beeston writes).

"As Afghanistan began the process of killing communism in the USSR, so in Chechenia the funeral of Russian democracy is taking place," Yusuf Soslanbekov, an opponent of General Dzhokhar Dudayev, the rebel leader, said of Moscow's clumsy attempts to oust his rival. Aleksandr Rutskoi, leader of the 1993 uprising against President Yeltsin, said that the entire conflict could have been avoided if the authorities had sealed the republic's borders in 1991.

Fatal blast

Rotterdam: A Turkish-born man was killed when a car bomb exploded in a residential area of this Dutch city. No one claimed responsibility for the blast and police investigators did not know last night whether the motive was political. Officers declined to name the man, who was 32. *(AFP)*

BBC chief says Euro plan for TV quotas doomed

FROM WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU IN BRUSSELS

JOHN BIRT, the BBC Director-General, yesterday warned the European Commission against introducing tough quotas for non-European television programmes. Mr Birt said the best way to strengthen the continent's culture was to step up support for public service broadcasting.

Speaking at a news conference in Brussels before the Group of Seven conference on the global information superhighway, Mr Birt added his voice to the growing opposition to the strengthening of the EU "television without frontiers" directive. The Commission is in the final stages of revising the directive and should have completed this before the end of next month.

The question of binding quotas on the content of non-EU broadcasts is likely to be the most highly charged issue, with France leading a small group of countries in favour of quotas, and Britain and Germany firmly opposed. Mr Birt said that "we agree on the need to protect individual national cultures, but we doubt that quotas are the way to do this."

Warning against attempts to put "speed limits" on the future global information superhighway, he said: "European and national policy now and in a future digital world needs positively to support national broadcast services. We need especially to support publicly funded services which will sustain national culture if we are positively to sustain our own European national identities."

Mr Birt also criticised a separate directive on future television standards, which is currently before the European Parliament. While the directive favours the introduction of a single technology, Mr Birt said he was "not happy" with the directive's failure to introduce sufficient safeguards to prevent a proliferation of technologies. The question of open access specifically relates to decoders, small black boxes that decode satellite television signals for domestic sets. The BBC is concerned that private broadcasters may provide their own technologies, which are not compatible with other systems.

☐ **Early election:** Jean-Luc Dehaene, the Belgian Prime Minister, yesterday announced a general election for May 21, seven months ahead of schedule, in an attempt to seek support for his economic austerity policies.

Mr Dehaene admitted that his decision was also influenced by an "acceleration" in the Agusta helicopter bribery scandal, in which several politicians allegedly received bribes in exchange for the sale of 46 helicopters to the Belgian army in 1988. Last week, prosecutors arrested three Flemish Socialists and a Brussels lawyer over the affair.

Letters, page 15

Mafia dons ban the kiss that tells

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME

SICILIAN mafiosi worried at the infiltration of their ranks by supergrasses have abolished the "kiss of honour", the traditional gesture by which one Cosa Nostra member recognises another, police sources said yesterday.

The exchange of a *bacio* (kiss) between mobsters used to be a feature after summit meetings of Mafia patriarchs, setting the seal on an agreement between families or signalling criminal complicity among "men of honour" at weddings and funerals of hoods. Occasionally, the peck on the cheek even marked a death sentence: as depicted in the film *The Godfather Part Two*, in which Al Pacino kisses John Kazala, playing his brother, after having ordered his murder.

Leaders of the Mafia's ruling commission, who remain at large, have taken this extra precaution after claims by Balduccio Di Maggio, a supergrass, that he had seen Giulio Andreotti, the respected Christian Democrat elder statesman, senator and a former Prime Minister, receiving the kiss of honour from Salvatore "Toto" Riina, the alleged *Capo dei Capi* (boss of bosses).

Signor Andreotti has vehemently denied meeting Signor Riina at a flat in Palermo owned by Ignazio Salvo, a tax collector who was a member of the Mafia. On Friday, the former Prime Minister faces another hearing in Palermo, at which prosecutors will argue that he goes on trial. Signor Andreotti's lawyers had successfully requested and received adjournments at past hearings on the ground that they had needed more time.

Leading Italian newspapers reported that investigators learnt about the decision to abandon the kissing ritual from police informers. One newspaper, *Il Messaggero*, said the "abolition of the ritual raises the prospect of the birth of a new, compartmentalised Mafia, formed of miniscule cells, where each boss knows only a few disciples". According to the *Corriere della Sera*, the new mafiosi have also decided to abolish their traditional initiation ceremony for new members: on these occasions, a small picture of a saint was burnt in the hands of the new initiate who vowed to hope "to perish in the flames" of hell if he betrayed the organisation.



Riina: faces trial for murder of Falcone

The mafiosi have also stopped introducing themselves with a "*Son la stessa cosa di te*" (I am the same thing as you), a traditional password used by criminals on the run to identify themselves to members of the organisation in unfamiliar parts of Sicily, the *Corriere della Sera* reported.

Signor Riina and 36 other defendants, the most formidable figures in the Sicilian Mafia, are scheduled to go on trial today for the 1992 murder of Giovanni Falcone, Italy's top anti-Mafia judge, and his wife.

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Defiant Rabbani threatens UN Afghan peace plan

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN KABUL

■ As Taleban, the army of Koranic students, sweeps all before it, proposals for an interim governing council in Kabul are rapidly becoming obsolete



Fighters of the Taleban Islamic student militia yesterday during a meeting at their base in Charasyab, ten miles south of Kabul

THE United Nations peace plan for Afghanistan is likely to collapse within a day or two unless President Rabbani honours a pledge to give up office. He has already held on to the presidency two months longer than his term.

This has left the UN with the options of redrafting its plan to suit Mr Rabbani's latest conditions or, more probably, to drop it entirely. The President was told by UN officials in Kabul last night that his Government faced international isolation unless he promised to step aside immediately.

His administration was supposed to have transferred power yesterday to an interim governing council, pending the election of a legitimate government. Mr Rabbani has told the UN not to bring any more council members to Kabul, suggesting that he has no intention of giving up. He has raised last-minute objections about the membership of the 24-man council.

The development makes a resumption of fighting likely. Taleban, the Koranic students' army poised on Kabul's southern boundary, is already infiltrating men into the city in readiness for an assault, although imminent action is unlikely.

Prices of food went up yesterday in response to rumours of trouble. This dampened a few days of rare celebration during which Kabul returned, among other things, to its traditional love of kite-flying.

For the first time in several years, there has been a run of good news: a mild winter prevented famine, ample food began reaching the markets last week, prices had been tumbling, and it has not been raining rockets.

The saviours, Taleban, are young theologians straight out of school. Last week they routed Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, the Pashtun leader who had besieged the city for more than two years.

Many Talebs are schoolboys on a mission. Fazlur Rehman, 15, is still beardless but boasts that he became a Mujahid (Islamic warrior) after joining Taleban a week ago. He is respected as a Koran expert after eight years studying at a *madrassah* (Islamic school) in southern Afghanistan. Taleban, which swept through southern Afghanistan and reached the outskirts of Kabul a week ago, is in no hurry to attack. It seems content to watch the Government and the peace plan fall apart while preparing its next move and, no doubt, seeking strategic alliances with other groups. Mullah Muhammad Rabbani, one of the most senior Taleban leaders, speaking at his headquarters in the village of Charasyab ten miles south of Kabul, said that the UN plan to set up an interim governing council in the capital would only work if it comprised "good Muslims".



This, by his own definition, excluded all the present players in the Afghan power struggle, whose warmongering he described as "un-Islamic". The UN has been trying in vain to persuade Taleban to join the interim council. Without Taleban, the council would have little credibility.

Mullah Rabbani wants Taleban to provide a "neutral force" to maintain security in Kabul pending installation of a proper government. This is tantamount to rejecting the UN plan and demanding the right to take power. He said Taleban was presently preoccupied with disarming non-Taleban groups in the nine southern provinces it had seized in the past six months, and after that it would turn its attention to Kabul.

He held more talks at his headquarters yesterday with Mahmood Mestiri, the UN envoy to Afghanistan, who is struggling to save the peace plan. Mullah Rabbani said only 2,000 to 3,000 men were at the gates of Kabul. More fighters could be summoned quickly if it were decided to march on the city. "But we have no plans to attack," he said. "We want to settle this peacefully. We are ready to accept responsibility for safeguarding Kabul while a new Islamic government is formed. An official army can then be established." Mullah Borjan, a Taleban commander, said he hoped for peace through negotiation, not fighting, and added that talks would continue. Taleban commanders said they had captured 150 tanks from Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, the Pashtun whose army has been crushed by Taleban. The students' army believes it is a military match for the forces of Ahmad Shah Masood, the Tajik strongman who holds Kabul. President Rabbani is a figurehead leader, with no Government worthy of the name and no visible support for the lorryloads of currency it prints on Russian presses to pay off its commanders, who live in opulent style.

Iraq urges Britons to dodge curbs

BY JAMES BONE AND MICHAEL DYNES

IRAQ is trying to use British businessmen to bypass United Nations regulations designed to monitor its imports of humanitarian supplies.

UN Security Council resolutions permit Iraq to sell a limited quantity of oil to raise money for humanitarian goods, provided Baghdad accepts UN monitoring to ensure the aid is distributed fairly throughout the country. But Baghdad has repeatedly rejected the UN terms, saying monitoring would violate its sovereignty.

Now the Iraqi Government is asking a group of visiting British businessmen to supply humanitarian goods, including sugar, flour, medicine and spare parts for sewage and water purification plants, and to accept payment either from a third country, or after sanctions have been lifted. The Iraqis say that British businesses could collect from Jordan — which imports Iraqi oil because of a loophole in the sanctions rules — or be paid once Baghdad is able to sell oil on the international market.

Acceptance of the Iraqi offer would enable Baghdad to continue to reject UN conditions for limited oil sales. It would also short-change victims of the Gulf War, who are waiting for Iraq to pay some of the proceeds of the limited oil sale to a UN compensation fund.

Edmund Sykes, who is leading a delegation of 25 British businessmen in Baghdad, said yesterday: "The Iraqis have said to us that whoever can help them today will get a plus" in future relations. The British delegation, which arrived in Baghdad on Friday, is exploring ways of resuming limited trade with Iraq in the hope of improving opportunities to capitalise on developing markets.

After four years of sanctions, Iraq has recently complained that it is running out of money to buy humanitarian goods. Last September, the Government cut food rations by almost 40 per cent. Each Iraqi is now entitled to a ration that only provides 50 per cent of a person's required energy intake.

The Foreign Office yesterday expressed concern at the British delegation's presence in Baghdad, which it said could "undermine the effect of sanctions".



De Kock: accused by inquiry commission

Apartheid era officer denies 121 charges

FROM INIGO GILMORE IN PRETORIA AND MICHAEL HAMLYN IN JOHANNESBURG

A POLICE commander under the apartheid regime, Eugene de Kock, pleaded not guilty to 121 charges ranging from murder to arms offences when his trial opened in Pretoria's Supreme Court yesterday.

He is at the centre of allegations related to police hit squads and dirty-tricks operations during the apartheid years. The case is the first judicial test of the "Third Force" disclosures initially made by the Goldstone Commission before last year's elections. Colonel de Kock, 45, is one of the top officers named by the commission headed by Judge Richard Goldstone in its report of criminal political violence by members of the police and the Inkatha Freedom Party.

Flip Hattingh, for the defence, applied to the court for the complete Goldstone report to be made available. The defence also objected to affidavits by state witnesses under the witness protection programme. Some of them, Mr Hattingh said, had been obtained illegally and were now in the hands of lawyers for human rights groups.

The trial, which could last more than a year, will offer a preview of the kind of disclosures expected from the Truth Commission, which will be empowered to investigate and pardon rights violations and grant compensation. The debate over the Truth Commission has been spiced by fresh allegations of dirty tricks from Craig Williamson, a former South African spy. At the weekend he revealed how he and other agents, allegedly acting on Cabinet approval, executed a bombing campaign in London, aimed largely at the African National Congress.

F. W. de Klerk, the Second Deputy President, last night distanced himself from the bombing claims. He said he had never been part of any decision by an apartheid Government to commit crimes. But he conceded that the 1982 government bombing of the ANC's London office was "wrong and should not have been done".

Key witness pulls out of Pakistan blasphemy case

FROM AGENCE FRANCE-PRESS IN LAHORE

THE main complainant against a Christian teenager and his uncle, sentenced to death for blasphemy in Pakistan, withdrew from the appeal case yesterday because he fears for his life.

Maluvi Fazlul Haq told the Lahore High Court appellate bench that he did not want to pursue the case because his life had been threatened and he did not feel safe. He did not say who had threatened him. The court granted his request but carried on with proceedings. The hearing continues today.

Lawyers said that Mr Haq's withdrawal strengthens the defence appeal against the convictions of Salamat Masih, 14, and Rehmat Masih, 44. The two Christians were convicted by a lower court earlier this month on charges of blaspheming the Prophet Muhammad. They were accused of scrawling blasphemous remarks on papers and throwing them into a mosque in Punjab province in 1993, when Salamat was 12. A third accused in the case, Mansoor Masih, was killed by unidentified gunmen last year.

The case has drawn international attention and prompted Benazir Bhutto, the Prime Minister, to say it would hurt Pakistan's image abroad.

Earlier, two judges hearing the appeal were threatened with death by Islamic militants rallying near the court. Several of the 400 demonstrators delivered emotional speeches, demanding that the appeal be dismissed. "If the death sentences are reversed, we will kill the judges and their families," one said.

The case is being tried under a law instituted by General Muhammad Zia, the late military dictator.

Ms Bhutto's comments that she was shocked and unhappy over the guilty verdict led to a local lawyer filing a contempt-of-court accusation against her. The appellate court has referred the issue to the chief justice of Lahore High Court, recommending that a larger bench be set up to hear it. The accuser had alleged that Ms Bhutto was trying to influence the appeal.

The London-based Amnesty International and other human rights organisations have expressed concern at attempts by Islamic militants to put pressure on the court hearing the appeal.

During a demonstration last week, about 200 militants entered the High Court premises and threatened Asma Jehangir, a human rights lawyer who had filed the appeal. They damaged her car and beat up her driver.

About 1,000 members of the minority Christian community also staged a demonstration before the start of the appeal process last week. They demanded the release of the convicted teenager and his uncle.



An Islamic militant at the Lahore court yesterday

NEWS IN BRIEF

Aid route switch after looting

Nairobi: The World Food Programme, a United Nations aid agency, said yesterday that it had changed the route of its lorry convoys destined for Goma, Zaire, after the looting on Saturday of about 20 lorries at the Rwandan border town of Gisenyi.

The lorries belonging to various aid agencies were "partly or totally looted at the Gisenyi border by former Rwandan refugees", a statement from the UN agency said. The looters were part of a group of 11,000 returning refugees who had been brought back to Rwanda from the Masisi area of Zaire where they had been living since 1959, the statement said. *(AFP)*

Bank charges

Athens: Greece's two most wanted men, Theodoros Vasilakakis, 46, and Marios Hadzis, 24, were charged with 15 bank robberies. They were dubbed "the short and the tall". *(AP)*

Politician jailed

Perth: Ray O'Connor, a former Premier of Western Australia, was sentenced to 18 months' jail here for stealing $Aus25,000 (£11,800) from the now-collapsed Bond Corporation in 1984. *(Reuter)*

Death sentence

Port Moresby: Charles Ombusu, 22, who raped a girl and murdered her father, is the first Papua New Guinean to be sentenced to death since capital punishment was restored four years ago. *(AFP)*

Cost of loving

Abu Dhabi: A fund created by the United Arab Emirates Government three years ago to help local couples to meet the rising cost of weddings has so far granted £59 million for 4,800 weddings. *(AFP)*

Somalis develop taste for fight with toffee-gun US Marines

FROM SAM KILEY IN MOGADISHU

THE disclosure that United States Marines are to test new "non-lethal" weapons on their arrival in Mogadishu later this week has been greeted by residents of the Somali capital with a mixture of suspicion, good humour and outright glee.

Pentagon reports indicate that the Marines will be issued with guns which squirt a foam that will immobilise potential antagonists in a toffee-like substance, and a grease which causes vehicle to slide out of control and feet to slip. It is also reported that unruly mobs may be trapped behind barriers of teargas bubbles.

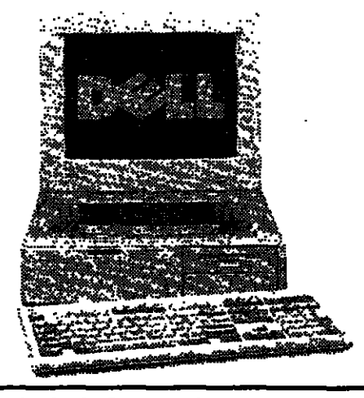
"They are using us as test animals for chemical weapons that will make us impotent," one angry driver said.

Dhaalbas Borhan, a local businessman close to General Muhammad Farrah Aidid, the Somali warlord, had trouble believing his ears when he heard the news on the BBC Somali service. "It's weird, very weird. Don't they understand anything about Somalis? They tried to impress us with [the 1993] Delta Force and lost. Now they are coming with glue guns. We'll probably send someone to attack them just to see what happens, and then laugh."

Sharif, a graduate who works as a translator, was delighted at the thought of foam-guns. "Toffee?" he asked. "What flavour?" The Americans are due to arrive this week to evacuate the last United Nations peacekeepers from Mogadishu.

The use of non-lethal weapons is the brainchild of Lieutenant-General Tony Zinni, the commander of the 2,500-strong force waiting off the Somali coast in 18 ships. "The new weapons are a more humane response when trying to disperse crowds," said Lieutenant-Colonel Jerry Broeckert, the Marines' spokesman.

The weapons were developed at the Marine Research Institute in Virginia with the help of the Los Angeles Police Department, which wants to use the weapons in its war on inner-city drug traffickers.



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PLO to reassess peace accord as backlash grows

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

THE ruling executive committee of the Palestine Liberation Organisation is to hold an emergency meeting in Cairo today to reassess the future of the flagging peace process with Israel, signed in Washington 17 months ago.

The meeting comes against a background of rapidly eroding support for the 1993 peace accord among many Palestinians in Jericho and the impoverished Gaza Strip and reports that, for the first time, a majority of the 18-member executive is either opposed to the agreement or in favour of demands that it be altered.

The crisis meeting in Cairo follows the failure of talks in Paris last weekend between Yassir Arafat, the PLO chief, and Shimon Peres, the Israeli Foreign Minister. They failed to resolve the deadlock over Israel's refusal to implement the second stage of the accord, which involves the withdrawal of troops in the West Bank, and the holding of Palestinian elections. Israel wants the Palestinian Authority to first crack down much harder against Islamic militants in the Palestinian self-governing area.

Mr Arafat, in announcing the meeting, declared yesterday that the peace process had reached an impasse, but "was not dead". He is under increasing pressure from the Palestinian grassroots to show concrete results from an accord which, according to economic experts, has left the majority of Gaza's 800,000 people poorer than before.

Jamal Sourani, a hardline member of Mr Arafat's Fatah faction and a member of the executive, claimed that Palestinians were now faced with a "dead" peace process. He said that under the peace accord, elections should have been held six months ago. But, as yet, no date has been agreed.

The Israeli public, angered by suicide attacks by Islamic extremists that have claimed more than 50 lives since October, are also increasingly hostile towards the accord. Yitzhak Rabin, the Prime Minister, admitted last week that only 30 per cent of the population now supported it.

Mr Sourani said the crisis council would discuss the possibility of giving Israel an ultimatum: that the peace process would be halted unless Israel withdraws from all of the West Bank, dismantles all 144 Jewish settlements, returns all Palestinian refugees and establishes a Palestinian state with east Jerusalem as its capital. Such demands would be totally unacceptable to Israel.

Azmi Shuabi, the Youth Minister in the 24-member Palestinian Authority, said: "The political situation has reached a critical point because of Israeli delays."

From the outset, Mr Arafat has had problems convincing the executive of the virtues of the peace accord. On Sunday, tensions with Israel again increased after the Israeli Cabinet approved the expansion of three Jewish settlements on occupied Arab land around Jerusalem.

Mr Rabin, in a televsied speech to a peace conference in Paris, said: "There is no political obstacle to implementing everything we are committed to with the Palestinians. The obstacle is terror."

☐ **Marjayoun:** Israeli planes blasted suspected Hezbollah targets in two raids in south-eastern Lebanon yesterday, the sixth and seventh such raids in two days. *(Reuter)*

Cairo: President Mubarak yesterday endorsed death sentences handed down by an Egyptian military court against two Muslim militants for the attempted murder of Naguib Mahfouz, the 83-year-old writer and Nobel laureate. Two other men were given life sentences, nine received sentences from three to 15 years and three were acquitted. *(Reuter)*



Part of the multitude that lined the route for Rabbi Auerbach in Jerusalem yesterday at one of the largest funerals yet seen in Israel

Thousands throng to funeral of rabbi

BY CHRISTOPHER WALKER

THE main entrance to Jerusalem was closed yesterday, as were many streets, as ultra-Orthodox Jews converged on the holy city for the funeral of Rabbi Shlomo Zalman Auerbach, 84, considered one of the world's leading authorities on halacha or Orthodox Jewish law.

Estimates of the crowd varied between 100,000 and 300,000 people, and the funeral was said to be one of the largest seen since the foundation of the Jewish state in 1948. Some secular Jerusalem residents, fuming in traffic jams, claimed the size was indicative of the growing influence of the ultra-Orthodox in the country.

Auerbach was respected for his humble lifestyle, eschewing the palaces often inhabited by other ultra-Orthodox rabbis. One thing which distinguished him in the deeply divided ultra-Orthodox community was that his rulings were accepted by nearly every section of it.

Rabbi Avishai Shtockhammer, secretary of the Council of Torah Sages which is revered by the ultra-Orthodox Agudat Yisrael party, hailed Jerusalem-born Auerbach as the leading halacha authority of his generation. The rabbi wrote several scholarly works and his teachings served as the basis of a number of popular works, including one now regarded as the standard reference book on the observance of the weekly Jewish sabbath in modern times.

"The sheer size of the funeral was an eye-opener as to the influence of the ultra-Orthodox," said the Jewish owner of a Jerusalem bookshop. "I have lived here for many years, yet until today I had never heard his name. It shows that we exist in two separate worlds, although we are all Jews."

US talks tough on Mexico bail-out

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

AMERICAN and Mexican negotiators struggled for a fifth day yesterday to reach agreement on stringent conditions for a US loan to bail Mexico out of its economic crisis.

The Clinton Administraton has offered $20 billion (£13 billion) to stabilise the Mexican peso, but with restrictions that could send Mexican interest rates soaring and put Mexico's oil revenues under US control. Both conditions could pose serious problems for the beleaguered Government of President Zedillo.

Negotiations began in Washington last Thursday between Robert Rubin, the US Treasury Secetary, and Guillermo Ortiz, Mexico's Finance Minister. A leaked account in yesterday's *New York Times* said the talks centred on tough guarantees sought by the US in exchange for the loan.

According to the report, President Zedillo's Government will agree to shrink Mexico's money supply, even if it means charging interest rats of 50 per cent or more. Rates are already over 40 per cent. The other main condition was a hardening of Washington's demand for effective control over the $7 billion that Mexico receives every year from oil exports, its biggest source of foreign revenue.

The Americans are insisting that Pemex, the national Mexican oil concern, must deposit payments into an account with the US Federal Reserve Bank where they could be withdrawn by Washington if Mexico defaulted on the loans. This proposal is an affront to Mexican nationalists who proudly recall the expulsion of American oil companies in the 1920s.

Hubble to begin search of cosmos for alien life

BY ANJANA AHUJA

INSTRUMENTS to be placed on the Hubble space telescope in 1997 will herald a search for Earth-like planets, astronomers told the American Association for the Advancement of Science in Atlanta, Georgia, yesterday. Other equipment to be added in the next decade will begin seriously to address whether Earth is the only planet to harbour life.

The telescope will acquire a high-resolution spectrograph and camera in 1997 to study two stars similar in size, age and temperature to the Sun, according to Steve Maran, a Nasa astronomer. The stars are 15 light years away from Earth, a short distance on cosmic scales.

Finding a large planet is thought to be the key to a successful search. The instruments will initially scan the region around the two stars corresponding to how far Jupiter is away from the Sun. A positive sighting of a planet such as Jupiter — which, at 318 Earth masses, is the biggest in the solar system — provides a reasonable chance that other planets will have formed, perhaps even a twin Earth. Three years ago, Aleksander Wolszczan, an astronomer at

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION

Pennysylvania State University, spotted a trio of planets orbiting a pulsar, a type of star that emits regular pulses of radio waves. Because they also emit bursts of X-rays, such stars are unlikely to sustain life.

"Being on those planets would be like standing in front of an X-ray machine and getting X-rayed 160 times a second," said Dr Wolszczan. However, the discovery supports the idea that planets could be orbiting other kinds of stars. "If you can find planets around a weird object like a pulsar, then you should find them elsewhere," he said.

The probe for planets will concentrate on what scientists call the "life zone" around stars. These orbits would be where the heat from the central star is enough to warm a planet but sufficiently cool not to boil water away, the prerequisite for life on Earth.

Even more advanced instruments are planned for Hubble in 1999, 2002 and 2005. Astronomers hope that a combination of powerful cameras will be able to capture images of small objects near distant stars, and prove the existence of other planets.

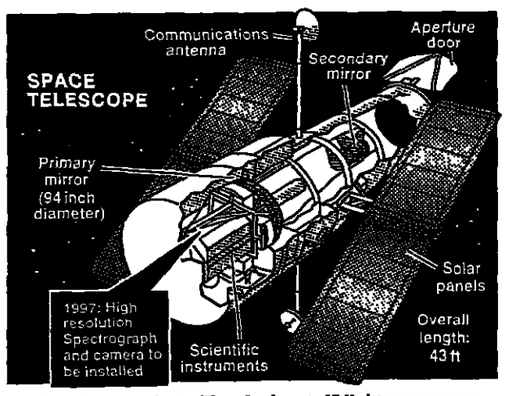
☐ **Language claim:** Up to 3,000 languages could become extinct during the next century, according to linguists. The spread of the English language is thought to be the main culprit. "There is a strong tendency for the world to move towards a universal language, and that language is English," Dr Kimbrough Oller, of Miami University, told the conference.

According to American scientists, between 2,400 and 3,000 languages will die out during the next century because children are no longer learning them. A further 2,000 are expected to come close to extinction during the next century.

An authoritative work on the subject, *Atlas of the World's Languages*, estimates that a third of the world's languages are each spoken by fewer than 1,000 people. Of 200 Aboriginal languages, 36 are spoken by only one person. Latvia harbours Europe's rarest language, Livonian, which boasts only nine speakers. The absence of a written form has hastened its decline.

Television and the destruction of wild habitats have replaced colonial expansion and genocide as threats to languages' survival. Experts say the loss of so many languages will undermine efforts to understand how people communicate.

☐ **Grain shortage:** Dr Lester Brown, president of the Worldwatch Institute, told the conference that a global grain crisis was possible because of increasing demand from China, which is rapidly losing agricultural land to urban development in the push for an industrialised market economy. "It could come within a year. It could come within a few years," he said.



The telescope that will seek planets 15 light years away

Kennedy takes literary route to top

FROM TOM RHODES IN NEW YORK



Kennedy: powerful draw

HOW does a member of a political dynasty survive if he is not keen to run for office? In the case of John F. Kennedy Jnr, the answer has been to publish a magazine.

Mr Kennedy, 34, previously an assistant district attorney in Manhattan, and his partner, Michael Berman, a former advertising executive, have been working on a political publication entitled *George* (after George Washington) for more than a year. They have just signed a contract with Hachette — publishers of fashion and car magazines — for a launch in September.

Hachette has offered more than $5 million (£3.2 million) for the venture and is providing editorial resources. The Kennedy name will presumably do the rest. A survey of possible future readers drew a 20 per cent higher response when the mail contained his name.

George is described as a lifestyle magazine treating politics as pop culture in the same way that has been achieved by television programmes such as *The Late Show* with David Letterman. "We want to make politics entertaining," Mr Kennedy told *The New York Times*. "If it is entertaining, people are going to be interested in it, and if they are interested in it, they might think more about it."

Mr Kennedy said *George* should in no way be viewed as a platform for his own entry into politics. "If I wanted to go into politics, believe me, there are better, cheaper, easier ways to do it."

'Humbler than thou' Clinton chastises Christian Right

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT CLINTON said yesterday that he is much more humble in his faith than many of the Christian conservatives who are among his most scathing critics.

The President took on this cloak of humility during a guided tour of the White House for CBS television. It was the latest in a crop of interviews in which he and his wife Hillary have cast themselves as a tolerant couple learning from their mistakes.

Mrs Clinton, in particular, has sought to disavow the confrontational image of her opening months as First Lady and to replace it with the softer, almost demure, likeness of a woman whose first responsibility is to her husband, if necessary just listening to him as he thinks things over. It seems as if the Clintons, at just over the half-way mark of the presidential four-year term, are trying to muster a sympathy vote by portraying themselves as doing their best, despite being misunderstood and unfairly attacked.

CBS asked what conservative Christians would see if they could look into Mr Clinton's soul, given their doubts about his being a moral man. He replied: "They would see someone whose belief in God and faith is as sincere and deep and genuine as theirs. And they would probably see someone who is, perhaps rightly or wrongly, much more humble in his Christian faith than many of them."

The Christian Right incessantly demonises Mr Clinton over Whitewater, the Paula Jones affair, homosexuals in the armed forces, his choices for Surgeon-General, and abortion rights. His answer was that he saw no conflict between having religious convictions and being an active citizen, but he wished the Christian Right could show more humility before condemning the motives and character of those with whom it disagreed. "Lincoln was right, we should have malice toward none and charity for all," the President said.

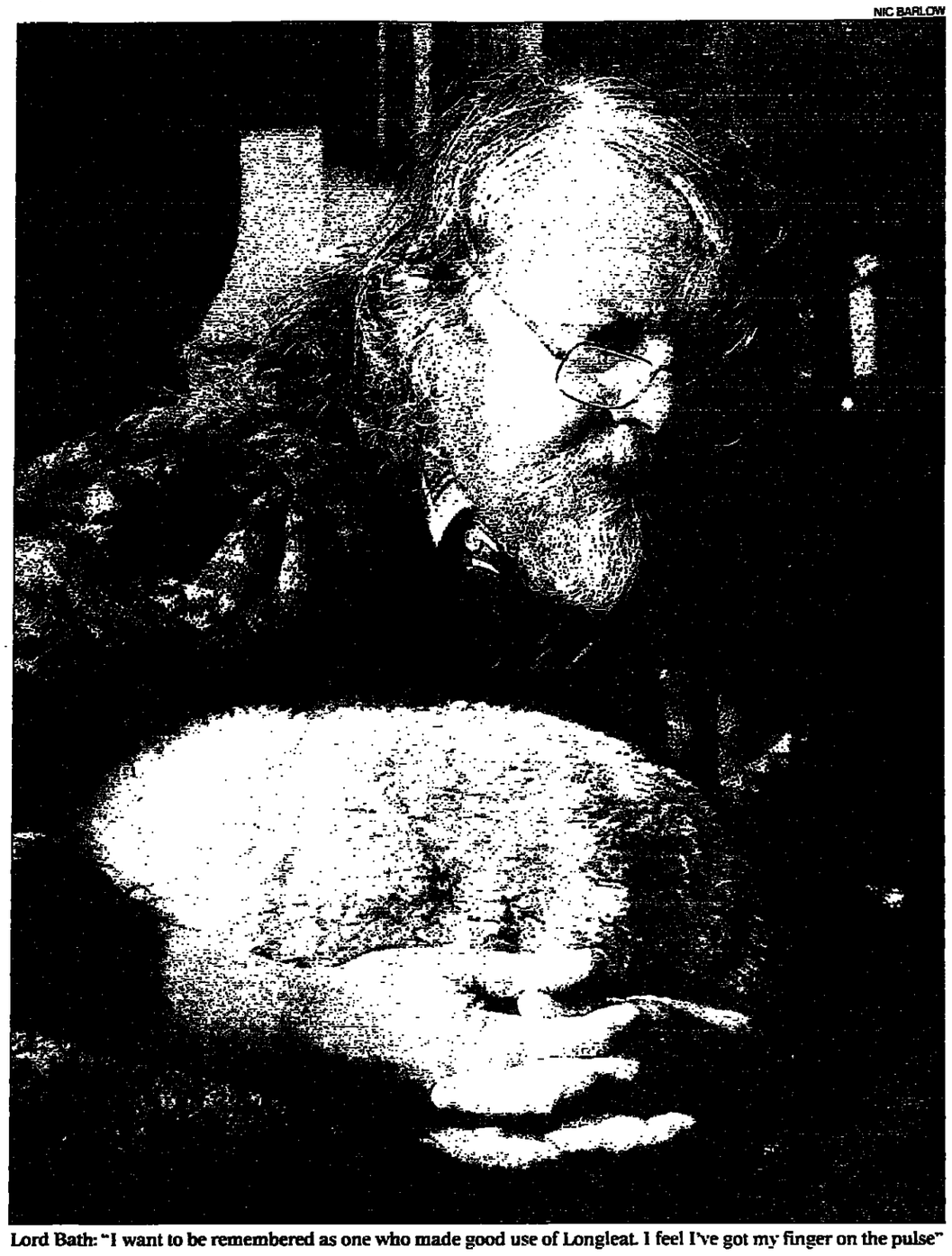
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Joanna Pitman steps boldly into the fantasy chamber of the Marquis of Bath

Lonely world of the lord of fun

NIC BARLOW



Lord Bath: "I want to be remembered as one who made good use of Longleat. I feel I've got my finger on the pulse"

A stark new private apartment has just been built inside Longleat that could have been designed — in the Longleat spirit of commercial enterprise — to be hired out for an episode of *Star Trek*. On a raised podium sits a colossal wraparound mission control desk, wired up with turn-of-the-century lights, buttons, computer screens and skeletal halogen lights.

Swivelling at the centre on a large leather throne jabbing his fingers at laser controls and savouring his new futuristic empire, is the striking figure of Alexander Thynn, seventh Marquis of Bath, the embodiment of 14 generations of British aristocratic heritage. It looks very much as if this erstwhile "hippy peer" has cast himself anew as the villain in his own fantasy James Bond film.

The trouble is Lord Bath is no good at sustaining roles for long. As soon as he looks up, an enormous smile consumes his unlined face and he comes bounding down, a great lolloping bear of a man, arms outstretched, no more villainous than a devoted puppy.

Eager and excitable, he skips around the funfair living area beneath mission control and settles on a pistachioed-coloured chair piped in banana. His guitar ("part of the courtship ritual") is at arms length on a mulberry number known in the world of interiors as a "kissing couch" and all around decorated in smartie colours are the fixtures of his amorous private world — a dark green grotto of a bed, a glossy midnight-blue kitchen stocked obsessively with nothing but tinned pilchards, a steam room and a jet bath soon to be matched with double Jacuzzi on the roof where he plans to lie back with guest against the hot gushes and survey his domain.

Along the corridor is the "Tarzan room" to park the offspring of visiting "wifelets" — any of the 62 "loves of my life" who come and go betwen himself and their own "hublets" and who fleetingly pad out his polygamous male fantasy world.

Although Lord Bath is 62, his gaiety and his concerns are more like those of a 22-year old. Pattering about in his bare feet he gives me his theories on the theft of *The Flight from Egypt*, the £5 million Titian painting stolen last month . "It could be to fetch a ransom later, it could be for a big collector in South America, or it could be used as collateral against laundered money. Whatever, we just cannot afford to have valuable things on display."

In his new mood of state of the art technology, he is toying with the idea of having holograms made of the most valuable works of art on display at Longleat. "That way the thieves would grab and find that there was nothing there."

Coming from anyone else, the hologram idea would be dismissed as a joke. But Lord Bath seems entirely serious. As we should know by now, there is no stopping this man when his fertile imagination conjures up a new notion.

In the early 1960s he had the novel idea of "muralising" the private quarters of Longleat, about a third of the building. The result of 30 years work, now almost completed, and open in part to the public, is a maze-like series of corridors and halls daubed in a thick oil and sawdust mixture with oppressive swirlings and hellish figures ("fantasies, therapies and cocoons") exposing the dizzy flights of a troubled and highly-sexed imagination.

This painful public search of his own psyche, all beautifully dated and labelled, does not seem to be a symptom of self-importance of narcissism. He sees it as a means of keeping his anxieties at bay. It is perhaps also a cry for help of a vulnerable adolescent spirit still in desperate search of recognition.

"I want to be remembered as one who made good use of Longleat. I'm not a disaster for Longleat. I feel I've got my finger on the pulse of the age we are in."

Ours is the age of the commercialised Longleat: theme parks, the world's biggest maze, mural tours for unsqueamish over 14 year olds. But most exciting for Lord Bath is the news that a Dutch company is going to market his murals as wallpaper. This is his first inkling of official success after decades of rejection as a painter, as a writer, and, underscoring all the darkest chapters of his life, rejection as a son.

"I always blamed my father for not knowing me. He didn't want me to be a painter and a writer. He opposed me going to university and he was vicious in his arguments." The sixth marquis, who died in 1992, is remembered as the first aristocrat to open his stately home to the public but also for his embrace of facism and his collection of Hitleriana (still on display).

It seems he was a harsh disciplinarian and a cold father. "When I was at prep school I converted to fascism and set up a secret society but when I proudly showed him 'Look daddy I'm your perfect fascist beast', he just yelled and said I was a bully and then shopped me to the teacher. He even beat me when I was 15. It was terribly humiliating."

His bright blue eyes momentarily bulge as if the memory has suddenly astonished him again. It is the worried look of a small boy still doing his best to be good. As he sits later at lunch, spooning up his gravy and mashed potatoes and emphasising that we must eat up the pears or else Eileen, his cook, will be angry, you can imagine him wanting to be told by his parents what a good boy he is.

As a boy, far away from Longleat and its looming responsibilities, Lord Bath led a relatively coriventional life. He was captain of his prep school, a member of pop at Eton, an officer in the Life Guards and read PPE at Oxford. But as soon as he graduated and moved into rooms at Longleat, his fragile conventional world was crushed.

"I was deeply disillusioned when I only got a third. Having fought with my father I had then failed. I began to try and discover myself, to find my identity." His efforts as a writer and painter only brought more disappointment. Just three of his seven novels have been published and his painting is dismissed, he says, with "undermining remarks".

Ever since his twenties, he has been struggling to transcend the limitations and responsibilities imposed on him by his heritage. He is forced to play roles — as a peer of the realm with a 10,000 acre estate and a £150 million fortune — but he desperately wants to avoid being defined by those roles, to prevent Longleat, the title and the trappings from eclipsing what he sees as his bigger individual self.

His eccentricity set in over 40 years ago and has matured with age, so you feel that the qualities he chooses to present must be real enough. So real now that they are turning him into a recluse.

"I've never had a best friend. I suppose that's my best friend," he says waving at the computer that contains the gargantuan but still only half finished autobiography.

In spite of the wifelets, six or seven of whom are simultaneously "kept" on the estate to be summoned to the big house of an evening to service their noble lord, a picture emerges of a lonely man isolated in his futuristic tower who has fled from any single bonding relationship and is now increasingly neglected by women who often prefer each other's company to his own.

"I have angels on horseback for breakfast. I tap at my computer during the day and then I always hope that my evenings are going to become sexual," he says with missionary fervour. "Some of the wifelets can be quite negligent though."

His one official wife, the actress Anna Gael by whom he has two remarkably well-balanced children (Lenka a 25-year-old film researcher and Ceawlin a 20-year-old university student), co-exists with him in a state of uneasy truce, leading a separate life in Paris but joining him for a weekend once a month. She presumably prefers not to use the staircase that is decorated with the numbered portraits from the Thynn paintbrush of her husband's 62 (and rising) sexual conquests.

Given Lord Bath's compulsion to leave his distinctive "cornucopia of copulation" mark on Longleat, to demonstrate that his heritage is merely a suitable backdrop for his larger personality, it will be interesting to see what the young Lord Weymouth does with it all on assuming the title himself.

Thugs on the side of nature

Angry people who prefer wildlife to culture have much in common with England football hooligans



NIGELLA LAWSON

THERE ARE some things we can take for granted: racist thugs are horrid, people who care about nature are nice. And of course they are very different sorts of people. You would hardly expect Basil Fotherington-Thomas to make the Nazi salute, after all. But the more I hear of environmentalists' claims about the woes of the world and who is to blame for them, I am gradually more convinced of the ideological common ground they share with the xenophobe hooligan hoardes.

It's nature, innit? That's what unites these unlikely travelling companions. The major plank in the environmentalists' argument is that what is natural is necessarily superior to that which is cultivated. The primitive must be valued over the civilised; indeed, "civilised" must rarely be used as a term save in sneering inverted commas to denote irony and head-shaking denigration.

Stranger-hating hooligans are just living, breathing examples of where such beliefs lead. To hate the next village's tribe or be suspicious of strangers may be entirely natural. It's a basic and primitive reaction. That doesn't excuse such behaviour, even if it explains it. After all, we know better: we can bring to bear rational thought, use it to tame irrational impulses. But rationality, in an anti-scientific age, is also a term of abuse. It is, the New Age pantheists declare, what has ruptured our relations with the rest of the animal kingdom and led to our destruction of the planet and its natural beauty. In other words, just because we can think doesn't make us any better than any other creature: in fact it is our capacity for thought which has lost us Eden in the first place.

In harbouring these sorts of half-baked resentments, the planet-loving, people-hating environmentalists are not so very different from the Bible-bashing fundamentalists. Either way, humans are evil or guilty of evil deeds; all that is good rests somewhere outside of us, in Nature, in God, wherever.

Of course religious fanatics do have a slight problem with what is natural. Too often our basic impulses seem to come straight from the devil rather than from higher quarters, but even those wayward desires — for flesh or riches — can be put down to filthy worldliness. In our natural state we are closer to goodness.

No one could accuse Thatcherism of being spiritual, but in its own way, radical Conservatism has also tried to make a case for its own superiority by virtue of its appeal to what comes naturally to us. It's in our nature, therefore it must be good, must be right. Thus greed, aggression and lack of provision for others who might be less well off or need more help are sanctioned.

Now, anyone who has ever watched small children playing knows that sharing does not come naturally. That doesn't mean we let thuggish toddlers poke each other in the eyes as they wrest toys away from one another. Or if, occasionally we do, we certainly don't pat them on the back and reward them for it. We try, surely, to teach them to share. We teach children not to hit each other, to control their violent feelings, to learn to express them rather than act them out. We teach manners and encourage consideration. In short, we try and civilise our children. But the point is, surely we don't want a society of savages anymore than we want a home full of them?

Government ministers, I'm sure, don't really think the untamed natural impulses a good and true one, but they just know that an appeal to our baser instincts — like xenophobia, always a reliable one — reaps rewards in the ballot-box.

Crusading environmentalists, however, really do feel that all that is wrong with the world is the result of our turning away from nature. They should spend some time with such fine examples of unevolved primitivism as peopled the stadium at Lansdowne Road last week and then they might begin to see that too much nature and too little culture, rather than the other way round, is at the root of the real troubles in the world.

Baby non-scents

WHEN A friend of mine had a baby recently she was given a startling present of a bottle of *eau de toilette pour bébé*.

Huh, I said: this idea won't catch on. I have at least three brilliant marketing ideas every day (doesn't everyone?) and I knew this was a no-no.

But according to a story in a recent *New Yorker* all the major *parfumeurs* are bringing out their own infant ranges: from Guerain comes, for example, Petit Guerlain, from Patricia de Nicolai, Petit Ange and from Jacadi L'eau des petits.

This is obscene. Everyone knows that there is no sweeter smell than the nape of a baby's neck, all peachy powdery milkiness. In this instance, I concede, nature does do it better.

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The stars escape to New York

Los Angeles is worried about the beautiful people leaving California for good, **Tom Rhodes** reports

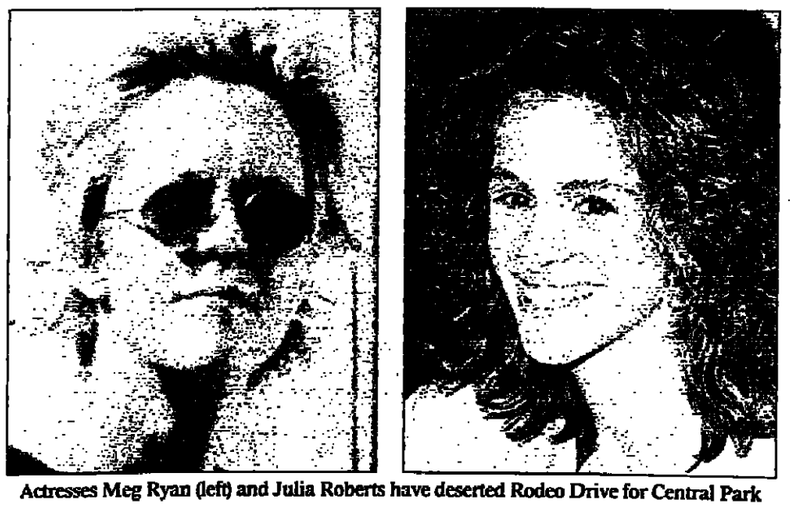
Hollywood stars are deserting Rodeo Drive for the fashionable avenues of Manhattan.

Riots, earthquakes, air pollution, snarled traffic and plain tedium have combined as catalysts for the Californian exodus, which includes Tom Hanks, Julia Roberts, Meg Ryan and Bette Midler.

Now Steven Spielberg, the king of the movies, and his actress wife Kate Capshaw have said that they are searching for a flat in Central Park West. "It gets very oppressive living in a community that eats, sleeps and drinks the entertainment industry," Capshaw told *New York* magazine. "We feel that New York City will be a relief from it."

Spielberg wrote *Close Encounters of the Third Kind* in the Big Apple and is hoping to return to the cultural diversity which inspired his first success. "He gets so titillated and jazzed when he's sitting next to someone who is in government or someone who is designing a new building in Soho," Capshaw said.

Unless, like Dennis Quaid and Meg Ryan, their homes were destroyed in an earthquake, few in the film business are likely to abandon entirely their bases on the West Coast. Most will lead a bi-coastal existence but say they will spend an increasing time away from the rigours of Los Angeles.



Actresses Meg Ryan (left) and Julia Roberts have deserted Rodeo Drive for Central Park

The drain of talent is deemed so serious that Richard Riordan, the city's Mayor, has been trying to salvage the pride of LA by hiring Bobby Zarem, the publicist who coined the slogan "I love New York". Mr Zarem remains less than convinced. "LA has vast problems," he said. "This isn't about the flow of talent. It's not just quakes. It's the vast emptiness. Material things helped them to forget the spiritual and intellectual emptiness."

Although the industry itself remains firmly embedded in LA, both Paramount and Sony Pictures have moved their corporate offices to New York and, experts say, more independent films are being made in Manhattan than anywhere else in the United States. Television and film production in New York increased by 40 per cent last year.

Others on the refugee list include Chevy Chase and Robin Williams, as well as a catalogue of producers, directors and executives such as Barry Diller, Strauss Zelnick and Peter Guber. David Geffen, of course, has a place in New York as well.

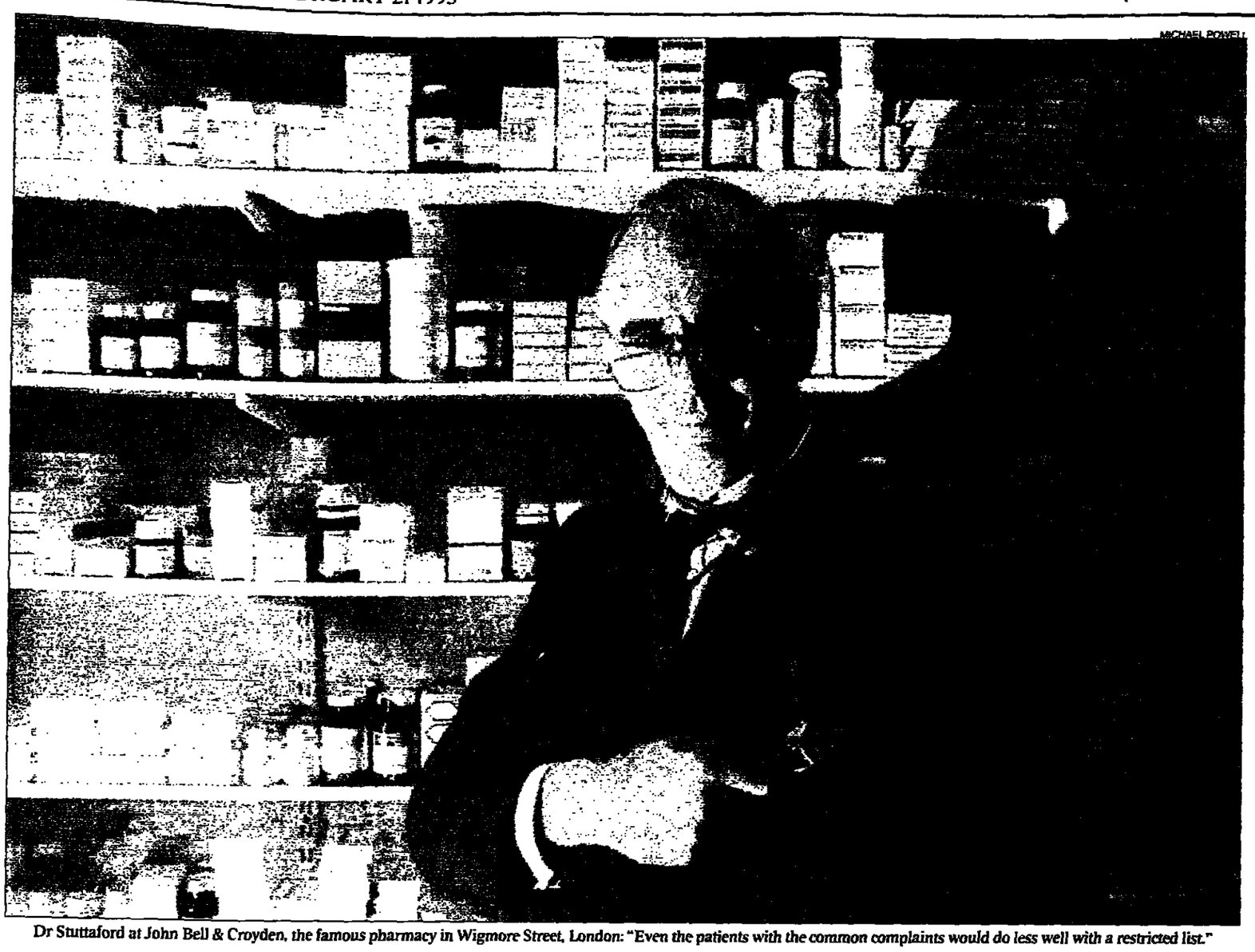
Despite the grime, the nonsensical yellow cab drivers and the constant bustle, New York remains a diverse centre where a younger generation of actors feels it can be recognised for individuality rather than six figures grossed at the box office.

Julia Roberts, who moved to the city to be near her sister Lisa, argues that most of her work is shot on location so there is no necessity to live on the West Coast. Screenwriters and producers who do have to spend time at the epicentre of the film industry, however, have already mastered the timetable of flights from JFK Airport to Los Angeles.

"I can leave New York early in the morning, arrive in LA at 11 o'clock, do three meetings, go to bed and do another meeting and be home in my bed by the next night," Glenn Caron, who is preparing two sitcoms for ABC, said.

Whether or not the invasion from the west will be accepted in New York remains to be seen. On Park Avenue they prefer Wall Street stockbrokers and advertising executives to entertainers. "Even if your private plane has a phone, they still will not accept you if they think you're not part of New York," one estate agent said.

هكذا من الأصل



Dr Stuttaford at John Bell & Croyden, the famous pharmacy in Wigmore Street, London: "Even the patients with the common complaints would do less well with a restricted list."

My desert island drugs

From today's huge choice of medicines, **Dr Thomas Stuttaford** lists those remedies that he would always want in his bag when shipwrecked

Forty years ago doctors were proud of their ability to treat diseases with the minimum of drugs. They claimed that they only used a few well-tried remedies, as their familiarity with them enabled them to understand their pharmacology so well that they were unlikely to poison their patients.

In my first surgery in Norfolk in 1959, the dispensary consisted of a couple of shelves with stock bottles containing concentrated medicines to control but not cure coughs, indigestion and pain. There were a few huge tins of sulphatriad tablets, the successor to the M&B tablets, phenobarbitone and a wide variety of barbiturate sleeping pills. Aspirin tablets, in many different colours, were much used and digitalis was available for heart failure. The diabetic patients had to collect their insulin at the local chemist.

It would be comforting to say that patients did not suffer from this regime, but they did. In consequence when it was changed I was credited with miracle cures when the real credit belonged to the pharmaceutical industry and to the wholesale chemists.

Doctors cannot be familiar with all the many hundreds of preparations available but they can understand the significant features of the different groups of drugs. Within these groups the various drugs have minor differences in the way they behave that may alter the whole course of a disease in any patient. The properties of drugs can always be checked in *Mims Index*, the *British National Formulary* or *Martindale's Pharmacopoeia*, three works without which no surgery is complete.

Any restriction on doctors' power to prescribe what they consider to be in a patient's best interest has always been contentious. Virginia Bottomley, the Health Secretary, is now making doctors, whether in general practice or hospitals, face limitations in their right to prescribe, as cost becomes increasingly important and the patient's health is no longer always the paramount concern.

> Today's doctor would need a separate raft for his drugs

Could any doctor successfully meet the challenge to practise good medicine with a very restricted list of drugs? Are there 12 drugs which a shipwrecked doctor could take to a desert island, with his eight discs, and happily administer to the locals?

Even a medical emergency bag would need more drugs than were available in an old-fashioned dispensary. All general practitioners have their own list but it must cover, usually in injectible form, adrenalin for the severe allergic reaction; penicillin for those with possible meningitis; powerful pain-killers; anti-convulsants for those with epilepsy; steroids for the failing asthmatic; diuretics for patients with acute heart failure; glucose for diabetics in hypoglycaemic coma; a strong tranquilliser for the dangerously deranged; and the ever-useful aspirin for first-aid treatment for coronary thrombosis. The use of thrombolytic drugs (clot busters) in general practice is still controversial; a doctor too would have to be prepared for midwifery and above all the control of post-delivery haemorrhage.

The desert island challenge would probably assume that the doctor would spend more time consulting beneath the palm tree than on emergency calls. A strictly limited, but far longer, list of drugs might enable the doctor to do a reasonable job of work for the great majority of his patients. Those, however, who suffer from rare diseases or had an idiosyncratic response to standard treatment would inevitably be in trouble. Even the patients with the common complaints would do less well with a restricted list, for not all drugs in a given group are equally effective in each case.

The doctor would be lost and, so would some of his patients, if there were no antibiotics. Either Augmentin — or Klaricid for adults or erythromycin for children — would deal with most respiratory tract infections. Ciproxin, for the post-adolescent, would look after infections of the gut and genito-urinary tract; Flagyl is also invaluable for other gut and genito-urinary tract infections. Lomotil is useful to control diarrhoea in adults; both adults and children would need rehydrating fluids.

Asthma would be a constant worry. Becotide by inhalation will control most asthmatics with Ventolin as a standby for quick relief when needed. Steroids by mouth, or even injection, are needed for some emergencies.

Where there is ageing there will inevitably be heart failure. The ACE inhibitors not only reduce blood pressure but have been shown to increase expectancy of life in those with heart failure. Diuretics and a digitalis compound when there is an arrhythmia are still usually essential components in the regime.

A clutch of drugs, sometimes used singly, sometimes in combination, are needed to treat blood pressure. Beta-blockers and diuretics are still probably the most useful; calcium antagonists and ACE inhibitors are rapidly becoming more popular.

Diabetic patients may either need insulin, or an oral hypoglycaemic agent. However idyllic the surroundings, patients will still become depressed, and others will suffer from schizophrenia. The anti-depressants are continually improving, so that although many would still do well on the tricyclics, they are very toxic in overdose and the 5HT reuptake inhibitors, such as Prozac, have fewer side-effects and are particularly useful for the obsessive depressive.

Simple indigestion will usually respond to an antacid, but if it is persistent even our desert island doctor would want Losec, Zantac, Tagamet or their equivalent. He could also recommend antibiotic treatment to eliminate any Helicobacter pylori, which is very common in primitive societies.

Dermatology with the steroid creams as powerful as necessary to treat eczema effectively will be needed, and it would be as well to have some of the preparations combined with a fungicide.

Gynaecological practice without the Pill would be difficult and other hormone preparations to control bleeding or the troubles of endometriosis are important.

Pain control would be essential. The non-steroidal anti-inflammatory agents, ranging from aspirin to Voltarol, are a must to treat a wide variety of inflammatory soft tissue diseases. Opiate drugs remain a necessary part of medicine, and local anaesthetics would be highly desirable.

Even on a malaria-free island and without prophylactic medicine, today's doctor would require a separate raft for the hundreds of drugs needed to practise safe medicine. If I was the patient I would rather be treated by a doctor with unlimited powers of prescription and within easy reach of a well-stocked pharmacy.

Pain that begins in the neck

Researchers have pinpointed the spot where tension headaches start

A GROUP of American doctors claims to have found the cause of "tense, nervous headache" — the furrowed brow and the anguished scowl so familiar in life and in painkiller advertisements. The culprit is a piece of tissue none of us even knew we had, linking the brain with the muscles of the upper neck.

The claim has been greeted with pleasure by the British Chiropractic Association, which says that its members have been treating headaches for many years by gentle manipulation of the upper neck.

But headache experts are more sceptical. The results were reported at a conference of neurosurgeons in Phoenix, Arizona, last week. Dr Gary Hack and colleagues from the University of Maryland say they made their finding accidentally, by the traditional method of dissection. They examined 25 corpses during a study of muscles used in eating. "We found," said Dr Hack, "that when we pulled on one of the muscles, it in turn pulled on the *dura mater*, the membrane surrounding the brain."



If Dr Hack is right, we have all been done a service

The newly discovered tissue links a muscle deep in the neck and known as the *rectus capitis posterior* muscle to the *dura mater*. Tension in the muscles is transmitted to the *dura mater*, straining nerves there and causing the pain. Dr Hack said: "The ramifications of this finding are that it may be one of the causes of one of the most common sources of pain."

What clinched the argument for the Maryland group was an observation by one of Dr Hack's colleagues, Dr Walker Robinson, a neurosurgeon. He recalled that patients who had had this muscle cut to gain access to the back of the skull seemed to be spared tension headaches.

Dr Robinson said the finding may provide new ways of treating people who suffer a lot of such headaches, although he isn't recommending the use of a scalpel. "This may help get at the problem, either with different pharmaceutical treatment or with massage, relaxation therapy, or an ice pack," he said.

The chiropractors, though pleased with the finding, point out that most headaches have more than one cause. But the International Headache Society does recognise as one cause of headache the pain that originates in the neck and spine, and may be aggravated by neck movements or by sustained neck posture. Such headaches may be accompanied by abnormal tenderness of the neck muscles.

Dr Keith Campbell, a neurologist at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, says the tissue identified by the Maryland group does appear new. But he cautions that some patients have much more serious problems, and may indeed be in such constant pain from headaches that they cannot continue working. He believes that "tension-type" headaches are misdiagnosed migraines. Professor Clifford Woolf of the Department of Anatomy at University College Hospital in London has also expressed doubts. Repeated studies into whether headaches were related to the activity of the muscles have failed to find a link, he says.

If Dr Hack is right, he has done us all a service. Headache is the most frequent reason people have for going to their doctors. Drugs to treat the condition are among the largest groups of prescribed and over-the-counter medicines. Painkillers such as aspirin, ibuprofen and paracetamol do not cure the headache, but they stop it hurting.

Dr Hack recommends as an alternative rubbing the area of the neck between the base of the skull and the first spinal vertebra — or getting somebody else to do it for you. It certainly can't do any harm, but it would be optimistic to expect it to cure every headache.

NIGEL HAWKES

Kidney machines are getting smaller and more user-friendly, reports **Dr Trisha Greenhalgh**

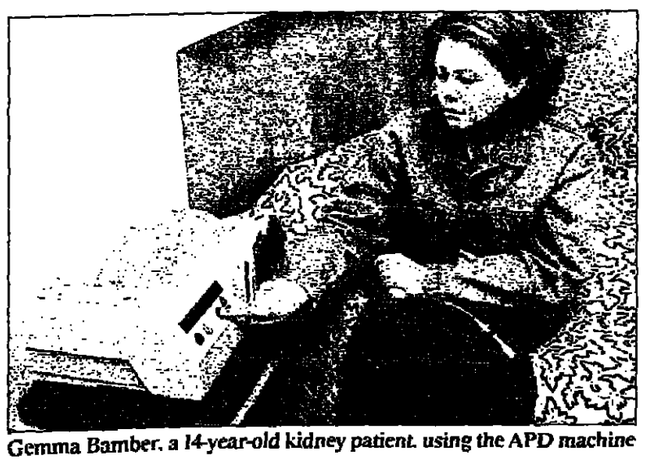
On the road to an easier life

When a person's kidneys fail, they become unable to filter waste and water out of the body in the urine. A haemodialysis (kidney) machine is a sophisticated artificial filtration system in which blood is pumped out of the body and passed down one side of a thin membrane; on the other side of the membrane a fast-moving, sugar-salt solution draws toxic waste and excess salt and water out of the blood. The clean blood is returned to the body through this closed-loop system. Haemodialysis machines are getting smaller, but they are still very cumbersome and cost at least £14,000.

Half of Britain's 24,000 kidney patients are on regular haemodialysis. However, some cannot tolerate it for medical reasons, putting considerable strain on the heart and almost all users find it physically tiring and constraining. Most kidney specialists today prefer to put their patients on the low-technology alternative, chronic ambulatory peritoneal dialysis or CAPD.

The first time someone told me how peritoneal dialysis worked, I thought they were having me on. You make a hole in the skin of the patient's abdomen, insert a short plastic tube (a catheter) into the peritoneal cavity, the free space within the abdomen where the intestines sit, pour in a litre or two of sugar-salt solution, and wait. Three hours later, you connect another tube and siphon the liquid out again. In the interim, it will have absorbed water from the body and soaked up some of its toxic waste.

Draining out old fluid from the peritoneum and replacing it with a new bagful is known as an "exchange": it takes at least half-an-hour, requires



Gemma Bamber, a 14-year-old kidney patient, using the APD machine

sterile surroundings and a quiet, unhurried atmosphere. Most CAPD patients need four or five exchanges a day. In ordinary CAPD, fluid is transferred by gravity, so patients must hang their dialysis bags on a hat-stand and drain the old fluid into a bucket on the floor. Each bag weighs as much as a telephone directory.

An alternative form of peritoneal dialysis transfers the fluid using an electric pump. Four out of the five exchanges take place at night while the patient sleeps, allowing a near-normal lifestyle when awake. Pump-assisted peritoneal dialysis provides the advantages of CAPD without the physical inconvenience of gravity-driven exchanges. However, until recently, peritoneal pumps were almost as large as haemodialysis machines and patients had no choice but to spend eight hours every night in bed.

The latest technological advance in dialysis equipment — a tiny, electronically controlled pump incorporating a sensitive fluid-measuring device — has reduced the size to that of a large briefcase and made it programmable to a patient's needs. Patients slot a disposable plastic cassette into the machine, which controls the flow of large volumes of dialysis fluid. Treatment can then commence at the touch of a button. Baxter Healthcare, the manufacturers of this new Automated Peritoneal Dialysis (APD) system, emphasise how their product will help patients to live normal lives. Travelling salesman can load the machine into the boot of their car and children can accompany their families on holiday.

Shabbir Chakera, 35, an electronics engineer and kidney patient at Guy's Hospital, has been using an APD machine for three months. He can now work part of his time in America and stores his APD machine discreetly in his hotel bedroom. He does not require any lengthy daytime exchanges, so his colleagues and clients are unaware of his condition. He says: "I'm more active than I used to be and I'm not restricted socially at all."

One leading kidney specialist says of APD: "The underlying technique is not new. These machines represent an advance in peritoneal dialysis because they are compact, reliable and user-friendly. They have a place in the treatment of selected patients, who will, however, still have to cart large quantities of fluid around with them. APD machines are expensive — around £8,000 each — and not routinely available on the NHS."

● *The author is a GP in North London.*

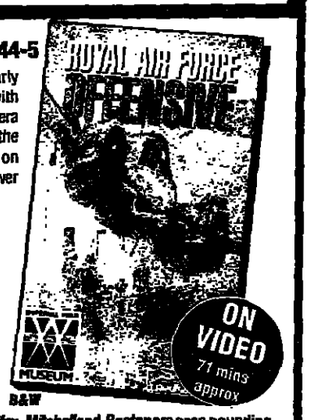
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Negotiation leads back to violence

Conor Cruise O'Brien on a failed sleight-of-hand in Ulster

There is no chance that the "Framework for Peace", shortly to be agreed between Dublin and London, can be the basis for *agreement* between the parties in Northern Ireland, which is supposed to be the idea.

The concept of negotiations between Dublin and London leading to agreement inside Northern Ireland is fundamentally flawed. Anything agreed between Dublin and London has to represent a compromise between Irish nationalism, always seeking progress towards a united Ireland, and *a British approach* which is not opposed to such progress, but merely concerned to ensure that it shall be as gradual and painless as possible.

No product of a compromise between those two points of view can possibly be acceptable to Ulster Unionists, as long as they remain Unionists. There is at present no sign of their abandoning their determination not to become a minority in a Catholic-majority All-Ireland polity, whether gradually or abruptly. They still reject, as their mentor Edward Carson did in his time, what Carson called "a sentence of death with stay of execution". And it is in that light that Ulster Unionists have to see any compromise between Dublin and London over their future.

> London and Dublin may agree, but Ulster will not

It is true that the "framework" will contain what will look to nationalists, and also to many in Britain and in the United States, like major concessions to Unionist opinion. The trouble is that they won't look that way to the Unionists themselves, and they are a majority of the population of the Province whose future is in question.

According to leaked reports, "significant changes in the *Republic's constitution have* been agreed in the negotiations on the Framework document". Article 2 of the Republic's constitution, which says that "the national territory *consists of the whole island* of Ireland, its islands and the territorial seas", is to be "expanded" to describe the island as "the shared inheritance of all its people north and south". This expression will not satisfy the Unionists. The idea of "a shared inheritance" may sound reassuring to people outside the Province, but not to the majority within it.

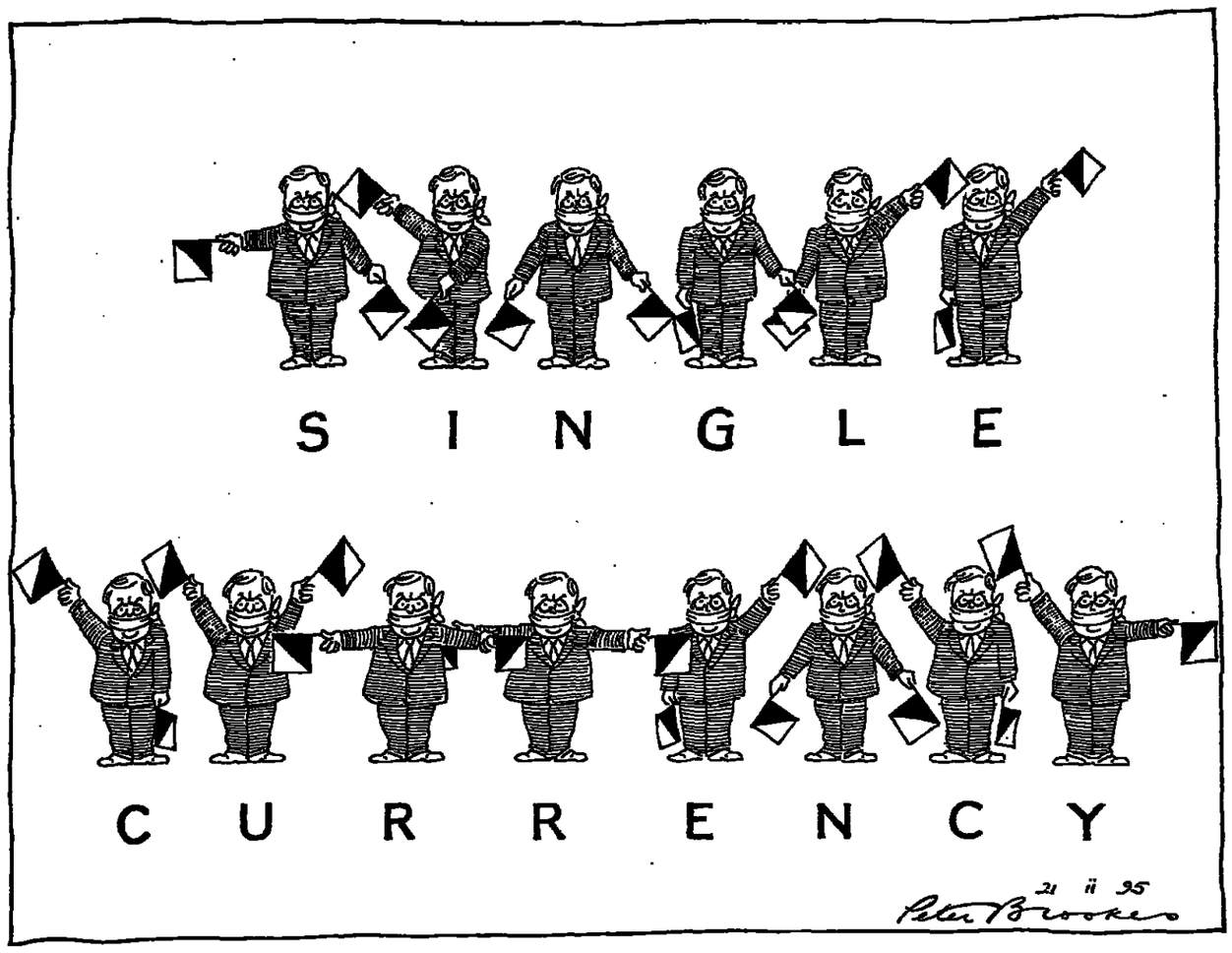
The combined concepts of "the national territory" and "shared inheritance" mean to the Unionists that the nationalist objectives remain unchanged. The Catholic majority in the "national territory" *will* have the lion's share of this "shared inheritance". Right and proper, nationalists will feel; "Thank you for nothing" will be the response of Unionists. Result: deadlock.

The proposed amendment to Article 3 of the Republic's constitution to include a guarantee that the status of Northern Ireland as part of the United Kingdom will not be altered without the consent of a majority of its people is a little better from a Unionist point of view, but not much. The principle of majority consent is embodied both in the Anglo-Irish agreement of 1985 and in the Downing Street declaration, but both those documents were worked out between Dublin and London without consultation with the Northern Ireland majority, and without their consent. To Unionists, this means that while their consent will, in theory, be required for the final stage of unification, major steps in that direction can still be agreed over their heads.

In a recent speech to the Irish Association, Bertie Ahern, *leader of Fianna Fail* and of the present Opposition in the Dail, said it was time for Britain and Ireland to leave behind the territorial claims and to "vest the future of Ireland exclusively in the hands of the people north and south, in keeping with the principles of the Joint Declaration". This means that the nationalist objective has not changed, and will not change even if Articles 2 and 3 are amended (which I do not believe they will be), though it may be couched in more sophisticated terminology. When modern nationalists speak of vesting "*the future of Ireland* exclusively in the hands of its people, north and south", they mean that the future of Northern Ireland shall be determined by a majority of the people of Ireland, north and south. This is exactly what the old Articles 2 and 3 meant. The revised version may stress the democratic process, but the unit of democratic choice necessarily remains the island of Ireland as a whole, with its Catholic and nationalist majority. The legitimacy of the Unionist majority in Northern Ireland is thereby undermined.

So it may seem that the *long negotiations* over the framework have been essentially meaningless, because their proclaimed objective of bringing about agreement between the parties *in Northern Ireland is inherently* unobtainable. Yet they do have a meaning, though different from the ostensible one. The nationalist object is to isolate the Unionists and make them appear to British and international opinion to be the sole obstacle to peace. The British Government has its own reasons for going along with this. Both governments can then claim that their hands are clean, whatever happens.

The tendency of the process is to destabilise the double ceasefire. To the extent that the nationalist approach prevails, it undermines the premise on which the loyalist ceasefire rests, which is that "the Union is safe". And whenever the nationalist approach receives a setback, as it is likely to do, the IRA will see it as "a betrayal of the peace process" by the perfidious British which justifies renewed recourse to "the armed struggle". Thus the idea of "solving Northern Ireland" by negotiation between Dublin and London can lead nowhere except to a renewal of the conflict.



A disgrace upon us

By throwing out refugees, Britain has earned a place in the roll of infamy

Bernard Levin

Sometimes, and now more often, I really do begin to think that I should have been apprenticed to a a gardener: true, I don't know the difference between a chrysanthemum and poison-ivy, but I am eager to learn.

Whence this misanthropy? I must go back a few months, when that indispensable organ *Index on Censorship* — I have been reading it monthly for more than 20 years — changed its format. Now, *Index on Censorship* comes six times a year as a magnificent volume, beautifully and strikingly laid out, and if there are any cynics reading this, and saying that poor old *Index* must be slowly dying, let them know that not only does the book-form annually comprise *more* material, but that it has also considerably broadened its scope. (Those who come new to it — I wrote about it some months ago — should know that the title does not mean that it is interested only in *matters concerning the suppression* of that which tyrants want suppressed: that is its principal role, but there is quite enough ordinary wickedness to shake hands across the abyss of censorship.) And I might as well repeat what Caroline Moorehead said in the first new-format issue: "Not only has violence reached catastrophic levels in many parts of the world, but the contempt of governments for the rights of their citizens seems never to have been higher."

A word more, before I come to the heart of my story. In every issue of *Index* there is an alphabetical list which is a catalogue of wickedness: suffering innocents are named and described, together with details of their plights. And in that last issue, no fewer than 93 countries were named as denying rights to their suffering victims, men and women.

But now I have found in *Index* a story that is, in one crucial matter, truly unique. It is a story that should be more widely known, a story to match many of the dozens of wickednesses that I have written of on this page, a story of cruelty, of *rights denied, of the very decencies* laughed at.

Yes, yes, you say, there are very many countries where such beastly things go on, and I write about them (and sometimes you *skip* what I write about them, and I can't blame you), and I know that you know perfectly well that nothing that I write will change the situation. And indeed it won't, even if the bosses of the country where the filthy deeds are done pretend to be democratic and pretend that the beastly things do not go on in *their* country, however beastly the things that are done in other countries.

And, yes, yes, you say, we are with you, heart and soul, honest we are, but we can't go on with the same tune for ever, and WHAT'S EVER NEW IN THIS BUSINESS, LET ALONE UNIQUE, FOR PITY'S SAKE?

Well, this is: the country in question is Britain. Beat that.

Have you heard of a place called Campsfield? No, of course you haven't, that's the point; if a *few more people had* heard of it, it would not exist. Meanwhile, I shall give you a tiny, compressed idea of what Campsfield (which is near Oxford) holds.

> *Refugees are not criminals. But in* Britain, unlike elsewhere in the European Union and in contravention of the UN Convention on Refugees, innocent people, who have escaped persecution in their own countries, are being detained in increasing numbers without charge, without trial, with no fixed term and with almost non-existent rights to bail, on the capricious say-so of individual immigration officers. They can find themseves in prisons in Britain for up to 18 months, in an atmosphere of secrecy and with an almost total absence of explanation. Most are then deported.

Oh, you want more, do you? You can have it.

> Campsfield House is a refurbished youth detention centre, with new 20ft metal fences, electronic gates, video cameras inside and outside and, the most recent addition, rolls of razor wire. Campsfield is run by Group 4 Security whose low-paid staff have two weeks' training and range from the kind to the malicious. Detainees suffer a barrage of Tannoy announcements relayed into each room, frequently early morning "fire alarms", and other more or less petty harassments. They have hardly any organised classes or other ways of passing the time. Medical facilities are minimal.

Campsfield comes under the Home Office: I have been studying Home Office shamelessness for nearly 40 years, so I was naturally at first suspicious about how that noxious place would be behaving when the detainees (what a word to lie behind!) were mistreated. I was not greatly reassured when the poor devils could finally could stand no more and went on hunger-strike — a gesture that was painted as a violent uprising. (Later, there *was* a real rebellion — taking over the centre for several hours — which was put down with considerable force.)

As I said, the Home Office was *responsible for* Campsfield and all the other such hellholes, but in this case, even the Home Office civil servants were horrified at the behaviour of the minister specifically in charge, Mr Charles Wardle, and his time at the Home Office caused something that I believe has never before happened in the entire history of the Civil Service.

The Association of First Division Civil Servants sent a detailed complaint to Sir Robin Butler, the Head of the Civil Service, about Wardle and his behaviour. From a position of complete ignorance, he took no notice of his staff in the matters concerning immigration — so little so that his private office was on the brink of resigning *en masse*, and when his staff gave him a copious and meticulously scrutinised study of refugees living in Britain which showed that most of the refugees *were* genuine, he had the impudence to get furious, presumably because he could not stand the strain of facing the truth. (It is possible that even Michael Howard realised that Wardle had to go before he could do no more damage; anyway, he went to the Department of *Trade and Industry, the poor* devils. And as we know, he has now resigned altogether and is now prancing about, probably no more wise than he was before.)

Well? I could go on for quite a long *time* with the story of the refugees from terror — running for their lives because they were in danger of being murdered (usually because they had offended a high-and-mighty) — who fetched up on these hospitable shores and thought they were safe. And safe they were, at least from being murdered; the trouble began when the authorities here wanted to send them back where they came from. (Until, now, I have never quite understood the term "between the devil and the deep blue sea".)

My grandparents were refugees: from Russia. If they had stayed, they would have had a very good chance of being murdered by the Cossacks who, like an appalling number of people then (and a good few even now) think it very right and proper to murder Jews, a view that I can hardly endorse. But the point I am making, wearily, is that my grandparents, having escaped the tsarist *murderers the first time, were in no* danger of being sent back to be murdered the next.

And if you think my tone is too flippant, I shall apologise and then tell you that I can stop the flippancy with one sentence, though you will feel queasy as I do so. Here goes.

> The most common reason for the refusal of asylum is the official denial of political persecution in the refugee's country of origin. The Home Office [viz. Michael Howard] said that "... our Embassy in Kinshasa [is] well placed to provide objective assessments of political developments ... Although there are sporadic arrests of political activists there are, in fact, very few political prisoners and the widespread opposition to President Mobutu and his Government is usually tolerated."

To which my rapporteur somewhat drily replies: "Not only is that untrue, it fails to explain the refusal of asylum to those who *have* been political prisoners in Zaire."

And now do you believe me when I say that I wish I had, in my youth, been apprenticed to a gardener? Oh, yes, you get your feet wet, and you damage your back permanently when bending to pull out a weed (actually, *I* damaged my back permanently when bending over to pick up a sock), but it would all have been worth it. And, surely, no one when, breeding a new flower, would call it a Wardle.

Stop press: "Michael Howard last night unveiled measures to deter bogus asylum seekers. His proposals will lead to some 12,000 people being deported from the United Kingdom next year." Whoopee! And: "Mr Howard also told MPs that the right of some asylum claimants to a second appeal would effectively be ended." Hoorah!

A field lacking lustre

Martin Fletcher on the Republican second fiddles

There are 364 days until New Hampshire's primary, and 21 months until the presidential election itself, but the race to replace Bill Clinton has well and truly started. Nine Republicans spent the Bank Holiday weekend that ended *yesterday* criss-crossing the snowy Granite state, addressing town meetings, teaching Sunday school, unctuously wooing the local media. They had a debate. They paraded before a dinner of 1,400 activists and circled *vainglorioursly* for the cameras.

The lobby of the Holiday Inn in Manchester, New Hampshire, was once again stiff with spin-doctors, pundits, cranks and hawkers of badges ("Two terms for Clinton — the second in jail"). Even Pat Buchanan was back: this time the scourge of President Bush in 1992 was railing against Nafta, Gatt, the United Nations and other such threats to America's greatness.

This is the most open Republican primary in 15 years, *but it is also a* measure of President Clinton's weakness that so many Republicans have begun such a frenzied scramble barely halfway through his term. He has attracted few new admirers since his 43 per cent victory in 1992, and has lost the South, the traditional cornerstone of Democratic victories. Many analysts believe his only hope of re-election is another vote-splitting Perot candidacy.

Yet Mr Clinton might well have been encouraged by the weekend. For the Republican field is ominously feeble. The Republicans of stature — Jack Kemp, William Bennett, Richard Cheney, even Dan Quayle — have been frightened off by the inhuman organisational demands of a primary season which has been compressed into a mere seven weeks by the unusually early New York and California contests. There may be blood in the water, but it is minnows, not sharks, that are circling.

Only Robert Dole, the Senate leader, has real star-quality. Polls show him the runaway favourite. He addressed nine packed town meetings, presenting a new, relaxed, funny Bob Dole in place of the mean campaigner who secured just 597 votes in New Hampshire's 1980 primary and lost to George Bush in 1988.

But the Republicans would be rash to rely on this old warrior. One reason Mr Dole presently seems so solid and statesmanlike is that his House counterpart, Newt Gingrich, looks so wild and unpredictable. After 34 years in Washington, his battle cry, "Rein in the federal government", lacks conviction. It is also questionable whether Mr Dole could survive a gruelling two-year campaign, let alone the presidency. He is 71: older than President Reagan when he first took office. He is a survivor of prostate cancer and grievous war wounds that still force him to shake hands left-handed. He insists he has "a lot of juice left", but has considered seeking only a one-term presidency.

If Mr Dole faded, the somewhat improbable Phil Gramm would become front-runner. The Texas senator has the biggest war-chest, is supremely well organised and is utterly in tune with his party's new ideological fervour and the mood of many American voters. But he is also, by his own admission, ugly and uncharismatic, with a porcupine's personality.

Lamar Alexander is the "stealth candidate", who relentlessly travels the country beyond the media's radar range. The former Tennessee Governor portrays himself as the only genuine Washington outsider bent on dismantling the capital's "arrogant empire". As Mr Bush's Education Secretary, he fought to increase the budget of a department he now claims he would abolish. In person he seems as slick and smooth as any Washingtonian.

Thereafter, there simply are no credible candidates. Senator Richard Lugar of Indiana is hawking his foreign policy credentials to an electorate that could scarcely be less interested. Pennsylvania's Senator Arlen Specter is running as the only social moderate, but there is no Left left in his party.

Robert Dornan, a wild Californian congressman, is living proof of man's capacity for self-delusion, but his rants against Mr Clinton at least provide comic relief. Mr Buchanan had his moment of glory in 1992. Lynn Martin, an earnest former Labour Secretary, presumably hopes to become someone else's running-mate. Alan Keyes, an angry Maryland Republican, is a black, right-wing Arthur Scargill.

Governors William Weld of Massachusetts and Tommy Thompson of Wisconsin could yet jump in, but the compressed primary season means raising $50,000 a day for the next year. Realistically, Governor Pete Wilson of opulent California is the only other heavyweight Republican who could still be viable.

As Governor, Mr Wilson has survived recession, riots, fires, floods and earthquakes. He is dour, but a brilliant, ruthless campaigner. By denying Mr Clinton California, he would also make the President's re-election all but impossible. He is loath to consign his state to a Democratic lieutenant governor, but wiser Republicans could soon be begging him to put his country first.

Hair of the dog

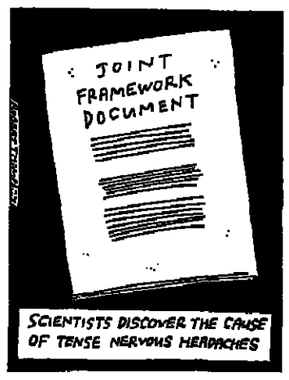
THE PARTY is over for dog owners. Swingeing restrictions on entertaining have been introduced for Cruft's this year, and exhibitors are baring their teeth.

The Kennel Club has circulated a stiff memo concerning the show, which is to be held next month at the National Exhibition Centre in Birmingham. "The NEC's regulations and local authority regulations ... do not allow parties to be held in conjunction with dog shows," it decrees.

The British Chihuahua Club is aggrieved. "It's a great pity. We normally put on a glass of wine and some sausage rolls and share them with foreign breeders," says the club's secretary Diana Fitt-Savage. Staffordshire Bull Terriers are straining at their leash. "It's a big loss. The party atmosphere at Cruft's could disappear," says Laurence Ford, secretary of the breed's Southern Counties society.

The Kennel Club says glumly that it has to abide by NEC rules. "Cruft's is a celebration of dogs, but where's the celebration without the alcohol?" asks a spokesman. "Dogs pick up your mood down the lead, and it's no good if the owners are uptight." Further comment comes from Peter Purves, the BBC's presenter for Cruft's. "It's totally depressing. I can't even have a tipple now." Birmingham's NEC apologises but says exhibitors contravened regulations with their parties last year. "It's just something we had to put a stop to. We had no option."

● *Whether Lady Thatcher would approve is unclear. But a militant gay rights group has been invited to Somerville, her Oxford college, as part of the university's "Queer Week". The Lesbian Avengers, who recently stormed* The Sunday Times *over an allegedly homophobic article, will address women's groups on Thursday.*



Quick snort

WHATEVER the allegations about Michael Foot and the KGB, one thing is certain: Leonid Brezhnev mistakenly thought the Labour leader to be a frightful toper.

He was given this impression when Foot visited Russia in 1981. At a morning meeting with the Russian leader, an interpreter asked whether the British visitors would like tea or coffee. Foot chose tea; then, to break the ice, leant over to Brezhnev, who was desperately hard of hearing: "Had some of your vodka last night," he said. "Very good it was too."

Glancing at his watch, the old bear growled back: "Now is not the the time or place for vodka."

Blazing out

STUDENTS may have a reputation for being scruffy, but members of the Cambridge Union are doing their best to make amends. They are to have blazers designed by Sir Hardy Amies, dressmaker to Her Majesty the Queen.

The union already has a tie (dark blue with a maroon stripe), but Nicholas Boys-Smith, the president-elect, wants to take its members further down the catwalk. He claims that we are in the centenary year of the invention of the boating coat — and that this is excuse enough for a celebratory blazer.

Sir Hardy is warming to his task. "The boys are coming to look at the latest styles to decide. Unless it is a club blazer, gentlemen's blazers are traditionally navy blue."

Too true

HAPPILY Sir Nicholas Fairbairn's multifarious talents will not be forgotten, for he left three projects on the stocks: two books at the printers and an exhibition of his watercolours to open in Edinburgh next month. He wrote a new thriller, *Murder Most Manifest*, and a second volume of his autobiography. He was writing a final chapter, attacking the Lord Chancellor, Lord Mackay of Clashfern, when he died at the weekend.

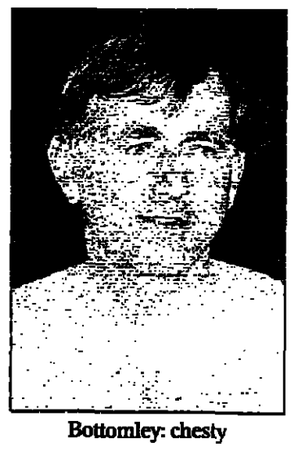
The autobiography, which follows a first volume entitled *Life's Too Short*, presents Quartet Books with a problem. "He wanted to call the second volume *Life's Far Too Short*," explains Quartet's Jeremy Beale. "But we're not sure whether to use that title now. It's got rather an odd ring to it."

Make a splash

THERE WERE hopes that the scrumptious Virginia Bottomley was to have taken the plunge this year in the Commons versus Lords swim. Sadly not. But I am delighted to be able to report that her husband, Peter, is shaping up.

"Swimming's my thing," he says. "Virginia's more in to rowing." Bottomley says his training routine is "confidential", but he expects to be in good enough shape to slip on a pair of Speedo briefs without embarrassment for the contest this summer. He teams up with the likes of Clare Short (Labour, Birmingham Ladywood) and Graham Riddick (Tory, Colne Valley) to take on the Lords, captained by Lord St John of Bletso. Riddick is already complaining: "It's not fair. We don't even have a pool to practise in, and the Lords always cheat."

With decorous reserve, the peers will not be drawn by such vulgar accusations.



Bottomley: chesty

P·H·S

THE GERMAN MODEL

Rustier and more rickety than the glossy image suggests

A casual look at the financial markets or the economic preoccupations of the governments of continental Europe, would suggest that Germany is the healthiest economy in the world today. All over Europe, Governments are trying desperately to follow the injunctions of the Maastricht treaty to make their economies "converge" towards the German model. Meanwhile, international investors, frightened by the financial crisis in Mexico, the earthquake in Japan and the political gridlock in America, are fleeing into the "safe haven" of the German mark.

Yet a closer look at what is going on in German industry at the moment suggests a much more sober picture. Not only is Germany still struggling with the economic and social burdens of reunification; more importantly the "German model" of corporatists economic management is looking more like a costly anachronism and an impediment to progress with every year that goes by.

Yesterday, thousands of German engineering workers held a vote on whether to go ahead with the first full strike for eleven years. All the indications are that most of the 3.5 million members of the giant IG Metall union are determined to take industrial action.A strike would inevitably raise questions not only about German labour relations, but about the whole "social partnership" which lies at the basis of the German corporate state.

Every year Germany hosts a predictable choreographed confrontation. The unions put their demands, the employers reject them, both sides go to arbitration, the bargaining breaks down and the unions begin the machinery to invoke a strike. At any point during this ritual the two sides reach a deal. Meanwhile, stuck in the perception of the 1970s, they look across the Channel and lament the "anarchy" of British labour relations.

This year, however, the threat is more real and the possibility of pretence correspondingly less. For the past two years, as Germany plunged into recession, wage rises have been held at virtually zero. This was the necessary condition for making unification possible on the over-generous terms demanded by the unions and conceded by Herr Kohl. But now the unions have had enough of restraint. Germany's employers are deeply worried. They fear that the inflexibility of labour, the increasingly high burden of social protection and the old-fashioned union expectations of a steady rise in wages is pricing Germany out of world markets. Behind the fears that the country is no longer competitive are worrying signs of the flight of investment abroad, the reluctance of outsiders to locate in Germany and the stultifying effect of over-regulation. The employers fear that unless industry uses the recovery to undertake the brutal restructuring forced on other European competitors, Germany will lose for ever its market advantage.

They are right. But their worries coincide with increased union militancy, spurred by falling membership and the suspicions of East German members — with memories of the enforced agreements with state employers — of any cosy deals. Union-bashing has never been part of Herr Kohl's platform, and the entrenchment of union power is still seen as both healthy and right. But a new militancy would frighten Herr Kohl. And a victory for the unions in their current confrontation should be even more frightening to all those politicians and businessmen across Europe who speak glibly of converging towards the German model without thinking what that might mean.

THROUGH THE KEYHOLE

New surgical techniques and new drugs need equal controls

The Department of Health's decision to set up a body monitoring new medical techniques is as welcome as it is overdue. The pace of technological advance in this area has been extraordinary in recent years. As has often happened in the history of science, regulation has failed to keep pace with innovation. In medicine, it is patients who pay the price for such failures. Health managers have a special responsibility to ensure that this price is as small as possible.

The successes and failures of keyhole or "minimal access" surgery have been instructive. Its advantages are not in question. By enabling surgeons to operate through a tiny incision using a minute television camera, the new technique has reduced the pain suffered by patients, left tiny scars and assisted swift recovery. According to some estimates, between 40 and 70 per cent of all operations will soon be performed using keyhole methods. Enthusiasts claim that the science of surgery will be transformed by this single innovation.

Yet with opportunity has come risk. The co-ordination required of the person operating is considerably greater than in conventional procedures. This is especially so when the incision is made and the camera is inserted, the moment at which internal organs are most likely to be damaged. There is alarming evidence that keyhole techniques have, in many cases, been used in an unsatisfactory way by surgeons who have not fully mastered them. Campaigners for safe minimal access surgery have compiled more than 1,000 cases in which patients have not recovered properly after such surgery. The health service is bracing itself for court cases this year.

The Government and professional bodies have now acted to ensure that surgeons are better equipped to follow these procedures safely and competently. Health authorities have been urged to ensure that training in these techniques is high in their priorities; three teaching centres have been set up to help surgeons to acquire the necessary experience. It is clear, however, that similar steps should have been taken earlier.

The new monitoring body should learn from this experience. It has been made necessary not only by technological change but also by the growing litigiousness of aggrieved patients. The cost of malpractice suits to the NHS rose from £53 million in 1990-91 to £125 million last year: a further increase is expected in 1995. A new centralised clinical negligence scheme to help health managers share the burden of insurance will become operative in April. It should now be easier for them to insure against the costs of anticipated court cases.

Prevention is always preferable to cure. The new body should scrutinise medical techniques in the same way that the Committee for Safety in Medicine assesses drugs. Its first purpose should be to assess the risks involved in such procedures, judge whether they are suitable for general use, and — above all — offer relevant guidance to the health authorities and professional bodies. The committee should develop particularly close liaisons with those institutions which train surgeons. Science is constantly adjusting the limits of surgical possibility: it will soon be possible, for example, for a surgeon in Los Angeles to operate upon a patient in London using robotic and virtual reality technology. But the demands upon individual surgeons are growing accordingly. The new committee should make this cultural change in the medical profession the basis of its work.

SHE MET VAN GOGH

Call no man a hero until all his contemporaries are dead

Vincent van Gogh has become an artistic superman. His paintings break world auction records. His sunflowers and his other bright images of Provence are better known than the works of any other artist. His madness, depression, severing of his ear and suicide give his life the romantic appeal of a doomed genius. But Jeanne Calment remembers him only as "ugly as sin, a bad-tempered 'nut' smelling strongly of drink" coming into her father's shop to buy his canvases.

Madame Calment was 13 when Van Gogh came to Arles, where she has lived all her life. Today she celebrates her 120th birthday, which makes her one of the oldest living human beings and one of the oldest human beings who have ever lived. In the year of her birth, Captain Webb became the first man to swim the Channel, Disraeli snapped up the French shares in the Suez Canal, and Bizet died from a massive heart attack at the age of 37 after the failure of his opera *Carmen*, described by critics of the day as "obscene". By the kindly court of appeal of time, Madame Calment's still sings her favourite tune, the Toreador aria from *Carmen*.

She had a meal with her husband up the Eiffel Tower while it was still being built, and had to wait until she was 75 before she was given the right to vote. When she was 80 she was sold an annuity in return for the eventual inheritance of her flat by a retired lawyer. His expectations have been so far disappointed that he has now paid her at least three times the value of the flat. Today, as usual on her birthday, she is sending him a saucy card saying, "Sorry I am still alive." Her age has even been accepted as authentic by the French bureaucracy.

She has to face a certain scepticism about her years nonetheless. From Methuselah to Stalin, claims to human longevity have been much obscured by vanity, optimism, deceit and fraud. Great age was a stock attribute for tribal patriarchs. The British peerage is the largest cohort in the world for reliable pedigrees. But in ten centuries it has produced only three centenarians. Georgian officials made a point of discovering centenarians in order to gratify Stalin's pride in his native land and understandable terror of death. Even at the time sceptics observed that the average life-span of Georgians was lower than in the Soviet Union as a whole. It has been noted that since Stalin's death, the incidence of alleged centenarians in Georgia has declined from a torrent to a drip.

Madame Calment defies her sceptics. This survivor from the past touches history in a way written records cannot reach. She was born long before most of the inventions that have transformed life for ordinary people and before the disasters and triumphs that have changed the face of the great world outside Arles. A single life can now span a great gulf of time as history turns faster. But there is a permanence about personal judgments at the sunflower-roots of society. Dynasties and wars pass. But Jeanne Calment still remembers Van Gogh as a rude outsider smelling of alcohol.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

British self-interest and a single currency for Europe

From Sir Fred Catherwood

Sir, If Britain opts out of an eventual single currency (letters, February 9, 13) big business, with plants in all the main European markets, can get by. But the smaller exporters can now pay ten times as much as the multinationals for currency transactions and their risks in investing for export would, with a British opt-out, be far greater than those of their continental competitors.

In the Eighties, when our continental partners had currencies firmly linked in the EMS and sterling floated wildly and unpredictably, our trade surplus disappeared and, when we finally fixed sterling, we were running an annual current account deficit of £20 billion. So much for the benefit of the last opt-out.

By then our partners had already decided that the EMS was too weak to stand the strain of the enlarged single market, which allowed free flow of volatile capital as well as goods and services. Yet countries in trade deficit like Britain still had to defend their exchange rate out of their own inadequate reserves.

Black Wednesday — September 16, 1992 — underlined the worst fears of our partners and made them more determined to keep on course and find a stronger monetary system. They are backed by most of their business communities, who have seen the success of stable currencies in the Eighties: but the strong expansion of the single market was brought to an abrupt end by the decision of the Germans to finance aid to East Germany by raising interest rates instead of raising taxes.

These communities believe that one market needs one money and that it should no longer be at risk from internal political pressures in a single dominant member state. Their bankers see great advantage in dealing in a currency which is more widely held than the dollar and where buying and selling could be cheaper and interest rates lower.

Sooner or later, through the long process of Maastricht, or more urgently by the creation of an inner core outside the treaty, our partners will have a single currency and we will have to decide. We should not break the first rule of politics and say "never". We should decide hard-headedly on the real practical interests of this old trading nation.

Yours faithfully,
FRED CATHERWOOD
(Vice-President, European Parliament, 1989-92),
Sutton Hall, Balsham, Cambridge.
February 17.

From Mr R. W. Leon

Sir, The Chancellor, in a speech on February 9, claimed that it is possible to have monetary union without political union. He instanced as an example The Netherlands, Austria and Germany as one *de facto* monetary union, and cited Ireland's previous linking of their punt to sterling as another. These examples are flawed.

The Dutch guilder and Austrian schilling were very small currencies in comparison with the mighty deutschmark, as was the Irish punt to sterling. These small currencies were in effect like the Moon to the Earth, for the satellite has to follow the Earth's planetary movement.

If our pound became a satellite of the deutschmark, which would be the case, there must be a loss of sovereignty. Whatever the politicians call it, we would in effect become second-class citizens in a German empire.

Yours truly,
R. W. LEON,
Wood Close, 19 Buccleuch Road,
Branksome Park, Poole, Dorset.
February 10.

From Mr Nicholas Browne

Sir, It was very pleasing to read in Anatole Kaletsky's article, "Clarke fails his economic A-level exam" (February 10), that there is, in essence, no loss of sovereignty in joining a monetary union.

However, Mr Kaletsky points out that there is the loss of one of the main prerogatives of a sovereign state — the ability to print money. Without that ability, he also points out, there is sometimes difficulty in repaying debts, but a country that can print money can always repay debt, even if it is in a debased currency.

Later he reminds us that Italy and Sweden are heavily indebted but that if they joined a monetary union they "would lose their ability to guarantee the repayment of their own debts", if necessary by debasing their currency.

These people against monetary union are a comic lot. What they want is the ability to devalue (hardly anyone wants to revalue), manipulate interest rates and debase their currencies if the going gets tough. Kaletsky, too, has failed his exam.

Yours sincerely,
NICHOLAS BROWNE,
5 Fulham Park Gardens, SW6.

Killer viruses

From Professor D. F. Kelly

Sir, Professor David Bishop is right to be concerned about the ability of this country to deal with the arrival of deadly animal-borne disease (report, February 13). He writes from a microbiologist's perspective, and as a veterinary pathologist I share his concern.

The risk of introducing exotic infection is likely to be increased by the shortage of veterinary pathologists in this country. It is this small group of specialists who will probably be in the front line of diagnosis of imported disease, and it is their skill that is important in raising initial suspicion.

This country has, so far, failed to make adequate provision for training of veterinary pathologists. There are currently about 140 in this country, yet there are only three full-time training posts in this specialty: of these, two are privately funded.

The disparity between training and need will adversely affect this country's diagnostic capability in exotic diseases, as well as in research, teaching and domestic veterinary diagnosis. In the past year concern about this under-investment in training has been expressed by the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, the Royal College of Pathologists and the American College of Veterinary Pathologists.

If Professor Bishop's fears are proved correct we shall no doubt muddle through but it may need a catastrophe of the kind he envisages to emphasise our lack of investment in training.

Yours etc,
D. F. KELLY,
The University of Liverpool,
Department of Veterinary Pathology,
PO Box 147, Liverpool L69 3BX.
February 14.

BBC values

From Ms Liz Forgan

Sir, Your leader of February 16, "Enlightened views", paid us some generous compliments on *People and Programmes*, the BBC's review of programme strategy (letters, February 20). But I was surprised that the writer should suggest that it was part of anyone's plan to "denounce the values of educated, middle-class Britain".

Quality, range, innovation and *leadership* are among the words emblazoned in large letters on the report cover. The introduction declares in unmistakable language, "what will not change are our fundamental commitments: to quality, to originality, to range and diversity in every service we provide".

These are the watchwords of the BBC's past, present and future: they echo the values of educated, middle-class Britain.

Yours faithfully,
LIZ FORGAN
(Managing Director, Network Radio),
British Broadcasting Corporation,
Broadcasting House,
Portland Place, W1.
February 20.

Influence of TV

From Mrs P. M. Morris

Sir, If I were Mr David Simpson (letter, February 13) I wouldn't wait for the experts to decide whether or not children act out what they see on television.

I should turn the TV off myself.

Yours sincerely,
PIPPA MORRIS,
Bartlemas Cottage,
Bartlemas, Oxford.
February 13.

Business letters, page 27

Rain and sewers

From Professor David J. Balmforth

Sir, Your report of February 14, ("Downpour overwhelms decrepit sewer system"), correctly identifies the serious problem of urban river pollution caused by discharges from combined sewer overflows.

However, a comment by the National Rivers Authority may serve to perpetuate a common misconception that, because of heavy rain, the sewage discharged is sufficiently dilute, and the rivers are sufficiently swollen, to prevent serious pollution.

In fact, the effect of heavy rain is to wash accumulated pollutants off ground surfaces and to flush sewage solids from sewer pipes, so that the pollutant concentrations are often well in excess of those found in raw sewage. Moreover, as the urban catchment responds to rainfall more rapidly than the river catchment, these pollutants are often discharged well before river levels start to rise.

New UK regulations, drafted in response to the recent EC urban waste water treatment directive, set a sensible framework in which combined sewer overflow discharges can be controlled. In a recent study for the UK water industry we have demonstrated that current technology, when applied within a sensible planning framework, can go a long way towards meeting the new regulatory requirements.

To fully benefit, the water industry needs to consistently invest in the development of this technology and in the training of staff responsible for its implementation. Only in this way will it achieve the necessary improvements without substantially increasing charges to its customers.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID BALMFORTH,
Sheffield Hallam University,
Urban Drainage Research Unit,
City Campus, Pond Street, Sheffield 1.

YCs in decline

From Mr Martin Ball

Sir, Your report on the Young Conservatives' national conference (February 13) failed to mention one of the major reasons why the YCs are in decline. This is because of the deliberate policies of Conservative Central Office (CCO) designed to starve the organisation into submission by depriving them of resources.

CCO underfund YC activities, limiting mailings to a minimum and failing to provide funds to pay for a recruitment leaflet. How can an organisation prosper without the means of promoting itself amongst its target audience?

They then attempt to stop the YCs from having their own conference and at the same time waste money on their own creation, the Youth Festival, a summer mega-rave at which thousands of teenagers were to experience the political equivalent of the "Toronto blessing" and become life-long party members.

YCs are confined to walk-on parts in contrived photo opportunities to promote the latest daft initiatives. The YC national magazine, *Campaigner*, is prevented from reflecting the views and opinions of the members due to the censorious political correctness of Central Office.

Fortunately for the party the national conference in Southport went ahead because of the resilience of the few YCs brave enough to resist threats against the organisation's survival and their prospects of establishing a political career. If this spirit of independence is continued, then the future of the YCs will be a lot healthier.

Yours sincerely,
MARTIN BALL,
(Editor, *Campaigner*, 1994-95),
26 Princes Road, Sale, Cheshire.

War widows

From Sir Laurence New,
General Secretary of the Officers' Pensions Society

Sir, General Man's poignant letter (February 17), describing the severe financial difficulty being experienced by many World War II veterans and dependants, will surely strike a chord with right-minded people of all ages.

The general can take heart that the nation's debt and moral obligation to these proud and selfless people — most in their late 70s and 80s or 90s — is the subject of Alfred Morris's early-day motion no 186 in the House of Commons. It was also the theme of the young Lord Freyberg's recent most eloquent maiden speech in the Lords (letter, January 24).

The current joint campaign of the Officers' Pensions Society (which is concerned with all ranks), the War Widows' Association and Help the Aged seeks three things of Government: the award of a war widow's pension for life, the increase of elderly service widows' pensions from one-third to one-half rate, and the award of the widow's pension to those ladies who married their husbands after they had retired from the service.

We are encouraging all MPs to sign Alfred Morris's EDM or otherwise indicate their support. If the Government and country do not honour this debt, this year's VE and VJ-Day celebrations will have a hollow ring indeed.

Yours faithfully,
LAURENCE NEW,
General Secretary,
Officers' Pensions Society,
68 South Lambert Road,
Vauxhall, SW8.

Injured by animals

From Mr Norman White

Sir, Mr Ridgway (letter, February 9; see also letters, February 14) suggests the acceptance of some minimal risks from livestock when walking in the country. The greatest danger arises from the reaction of suckling cows with calves at foot. Protective maternal instincts turn otherwise docile grazing animals into determined killers if they perceive a threat to their offspring from intruders in their territory.

This reaction is especially marked when dogs are involved. I have seen a Galloway heifer jump a 4 ft stone wall in pursuit of a pack of beagles when they followed a line past a herd of outlying sucklers.

Last summer, when crossing pasture land to inspect water where I was invited to fish, a herd of Limousin cows took exception to my yellow labrador. Fortunately he was not on a slip and by (relatively) swift action on his part and stern intervention with a stick on mine, tragedy was averted.

This outcome cannot be guaranteed. Suckler cows should not be challenged by dogs and in most cases it is unwise for walkers to go anywhere near them. One farmer on Dartmoor, who was a regular host to visiting students 30 years ago, would not himself venture into the same field with a herd of Galloways unless in a Land-Rover or on horseback. The herd was viewed by students from the safe side of a solid stone wall.

Yours etc,
NORMAN WHITE,
Springfield House, Rookery Gardens,
Rushyford, Co Durham.
February 14.

Immigrant control fears unallayed

From the General Secretary of the NUCPS

Sir, It is ironic that Mr Charles Wardle, MP, should choose to resign his ministerial post (reports, February 13) as a result of his avowed concern for the future of the United Kingdom's immigration controls. Ironic because, during his tenure as minister with responsibility for immigration at the Home Office, he presided over the introduction of what is known as the "small ports policy", the effect of which has been to leave a myriad of small airports and seaports unattended or without full coverage by the immigration service.

Carriers and their agents are relied upon to fax details of passengers to the immigration service at remote locations. Operational experience has shown the practice to be haphazard and flawed: in some instances it is possible for travellers from anywhere in the world to gain access to the United Kingdom on scheduled flights without being seen by an immigration officer from any European country, let alone the UK. The implications for security and immigration control are obvious.

In this and other respects (the abandonment of large parts of embarkation control, for example) Charles Wardle, whilst a minister at the Home Office, did not display the concern for the integrity of immigration control that he now professes.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN SHELDON,
General Secretary,
National Union of Civil and Public Servants,
124-130 Southwark Street, SE1.
February 14.

From Mr Bernard Jenkin, MP for Colchester North (Conservative) and Mr Iain Duncan Smith, MP for Chingford (Conservative)

Sir, The "protocol" protecting UK passport controls to which you refer in your leading article on immigration policy ("Not a resigning matter", February 13) is merely a declaration. It does not comprise part of the EC treaty and is not enforceable in Community law.

Moreover, it merely refers to the right of member states to take unspecified "measures ... for controlling immigration from third countries". It does not say that such measures will include frontier checks.

Indeed, another declaration envisages alternatives to frontier checks. The Single European Act established the single market unequivocally as an "area without internal frontiers" for (*inter alia*) the "free movement of ... persons". From this, there is no opt-out.

Contrary to your leader, the Maastricht treaty increases the vulnerability of British passport checks to legal challenge, since Article 100c provides for a common system of visa controls. We have taken legal advice on these matters. Only substantive changes to the treaty in 1996 will protect British immigration controls into the future.

Yours etc,
BERNARD JENKIN,
IAIN DUNCAN SMITH,
House of Commons.
February 14.

Fulbright scholars

From the Reverend Brian Rice

Sir, As one of the early Fulbright scholars (from Cambridge to Chicago, 1955-56), may I gratefully endorse your generous appreciation of Senator William Fulbright (Obituary, February 10)?

I met him in Washington in April 1956. I had no appointment but he came out to greet me within five minutes. I told him that he was the person in America I most wanted to meet, just to say "thank you". I was humbled by his reply: "You are the first one who has come to say thank you".

Yours gratefully,
BRIAN RICE,
39 Darlington Road, Hartburn,
Stockton-on-Tees, Cleveland.

Hard to swallow

From Mr Simon Sinclair

Sir, Your report (February 15, with photograph) says that buffalo meat is the "staple diet of American Indians and prairie dogs".

If we believe a ten-inch rodent can really pull down a healthy bison, perhaps Britain's beef farmers should be more vigilant to the growing threat of squirrels.

Yours faithfully,
SIMON SINCLAIR,
116 Mottram Old Road,
Gee Cross, Cheshire.
February 16.

From Mr Nard B. Camber

Sir, Prairie dogs, a type of marmot, a member of the squirrel family and normally feeding on grasses and herbs, seem to have changed their lifestyle.

Yours faithfully,
N. B. CAMBER,
N. B. Camber, Ltd,
(Grain and feedstuffs),
Harley, Shrewsbury, Shropshire.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
February 20: The Duke of Edinburgh, Trustee of Council, St George's House, this evening gave a Dinner at Buckingham Palace.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
February 20: The Princess Royal, Patron, SENSE - the National Deafblind and Rubella Association, this afternoon opened Andlaw House, Bartholomew Street West, Exeter, and was received by Sir John Palmer (Vice Lord-Lieutenant of Devon).

Her Royal Highness afterwards opened the new studios at Gemini Radio, Hawthorn House, Exeter Business Park.

Lieutenant Colonel Peter Gibbs was in attendance.

Birthdays today

The King of Norway celebrates his 58th birthday today.

Sir John Bourn, Comptroller and Auditor General, 61; Professor Ruth Bowden, anatomist, 80; Mr Simon Coombs, MP, 48; Mrs Jilly Cooper, author, 58; Mr Michael Deakin, documentary and film maker, 56; Sir Colville Deverell, former Governor, Mauritius, 88; Mr Leslie Durbin, silversmith, 82; Dame Janet Fookes, MP, 59; Mr Carron Greig, former chairman, Baltic Exchange, 70; Sir Michael Grylls, MP, 61; Sir Conrad Heron, civil servant, 79; Sir Reginald Hibbert, diplomat, 73; Sir John McGregor Hill, former chairman, British Nuclear Fuels, 74; Lord Hunter, 82; Mr Magnus Linklater, former Editor, *The Scotsman*, 53; Mr Peter McEnery, actor, 55; Mr Robert Mugabe, President of Zimbabwe, 71; Professor Sir Rupert Myers, former Vice-Chancellor, University of New South Wales, 74.

General Sir Robert Pascoe, 63; Sir Ashley Ponsonby, Lord Lieutenant of Oxfordshire, 74; Professor J.H.D. Prescott, Principal, Wye College, Kent, 58; Lieutenant-General Sir John Richards, former Marshal of the Diplomatic Corps, 68; Mr Alan Rickman, actor, 49; Professor F.W. Rimmer, former Professor of Music, Glasgow University, 81; Professor Roy Storer, former Dean of Dentistry, Newcastle upon Tyne University, 67; Mr Richard Turner-Warwick, urologist, 71; Mr Leslie Wagner, Principal and Chief Executive, Leeds Metropolitan University, 52; Mr David Wood, actor and playwright, 51.

Dinners

European-Atlantic Group

The Australian High Commissioner was the speaker at a meeting of the European-Atlantic Group held last night at the House of Commons. Mr Peter Temple-Morris, MP, a vice-chairman, presided. Lord Judd and Mr Austin Mitchell, MP, also spoke.

At a dinner held afterwards at the St Ermin's Hotel, Lord Dahrendrof, chairman, presided. Viscount Montgomery of Alamein, president, and Mr Norman Godman, MP, were the speakers. Ambassadors, High Commissioners and other members of the Diplomatic Corps and members of both Houses of Parliament were among the guests.

Cardiff Business Club

The Chairman of Cardiff Business Club, Mr Brian K. Thomas, HM Lord Lieutenant for South Glamorgan, Captain N. Lloyd Edwards, and the Right Hon Lord Mayor of Cardiff, Councillor Ricky Ormonde, were present at a dinner held by the Club at the Royal Hotel, Cardiff, last night. The guest speaker was HM Ambassador in Brussels, Mr John Gray. Mr Alan Rosser, Chief Executive, IMC Consulting Group, presided.

University news

Cambridge

New Hall

Mrs Anne Lonsdale has been pre-elected President of New Hall from January 1, 1996. Mrs Lonsdale is at present Secretary-General, Central European University (Budapest, Prague and Warsaw), and was formerly Lecturer in Chinese, St Anne's College, Oxford.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Karl Czerny, pianist and composer, Vienna, 1791; Antonio López de Santa-Anna, President of Mexico 1833-36 and 1841-45, Jalapa, Mexico, 1797; John Henry Newman, cardinal, London, 1801; Léo Delibes, composer, St Germain du Val, 1836; George Lansbury, leader of the Labour Party 1931-35, near Lowestoft, Suffolk, 1859; August von Wasserman, bacteriologist, Bamberg, Germany, 1866; Constantin Brancusi, sculptor, Hobita, Romania, 1876; Sacha Guitry, actor and film director, St Petersburg, 1885; Bernard William Griffin, Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster 1943-56, Birmingham, 1899; W.H. Auden, poet, York, 1907; Sir Douglas Bader, Second World War fighter pilot, London, 1910.

DEATHS: King James I of Scotland, reigned 1406-37, murdered, Perth, 1437; Robert Southwell, Jesuit and poet, executed in London, 1595; Baruch Spinoza, philosopher, The Hague, 1677; Jethro Tull, agricultural writer, Hungerford, Berkshire, 1741; Robert Hall, Baptist minister, Bristol, 1831; John Charles Rossi, sculptor, London, 1839; George Ellery Hale, astronomer, Pasadena, 1938; Sir Frederick Banting, surgeon, killed in an air crash, Newfoundland, 1941; Malcolm Little (Malcolm X), American Muslim leader, murdered, New York, 1965; Howard Walter Florey, Baron Florey, pathologist, creater of penicillin therapy, Nobel laureate 1945, 1968; Mikhail Sholokhov, novelist, Veshenskaya, Russia, 1984; Dame Margot Fonteyn, prima ballerina, Panama, 1991.

The first electric burglar alarm was installed by Edwin Holmes of Boston, Massachusetts, 1858.

The Battle of Verdun began, 1916.

It was announced that British women aged 60 and over would receive the old age pension, 1940.

John Ehrlichman, H.R. Haldeman and John Mitchell were sentenced after the Watergate affair, 1975.



JOHN ANGERSON

Brian Hayton, director of the Yorkshire Museum, is fighting to keep it as a centre of excellence and brand leader

Council changes 'will wreck museum'

BY PAUL WILKINSON

BRITAIN'S museum community has attacked the Government for doing nothing to safeguard one of the most highly-regarded museums outside London. Ministers have even ignored the opinions of their own advisers on the future of the Yorkshire Museum in York.

Supporters of the museum, which houses the remarkable medieval Middleham Jewel and has several nationally-significant collections, fear that under local government reorganisation it will be downgraded to focus on York alone. Mark Taylor, director of the Museums Association, said that it was in danger of being dismantled.

Graham Greene, chairman of the Museums and Galleries Commission, which advises the Government, said, in a letter to *The Times* yesterday, that the changes could jeopardise the future management of the museum.

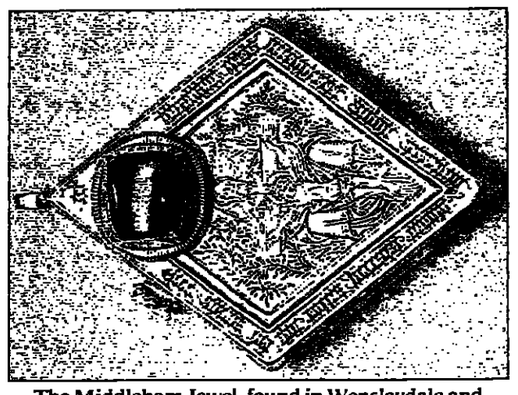
Under reorganisation, control of the museum will pass from North Yorkshire County Council to a new York unitary authority. Supporters say that the result will be to reduce dramatically the services provided for the region.

So far they have failed to persuade the Environment Department that North Yorkshire should keep control. A department spokesman said: "The new unitary authority for York is being set up to run all its services. We cannot then start taking things away from it. We have noted the points made by various organisations." These include the National Heritage Memorial Fund, the Natural History Museum and the Fitzwilliam Museum at Cambridge.

At the heart of the conflict is a difference over museum policy. York has a cost-driven regime. Its Castle Museum is the only one run by a local authority that makes a profit; however, despite its public success, it is regarded with some disdain by traditionalists.

The Yorkshire Museum, with annual running costs around £600,000, loses money and relies on blockbuster touring exhibitions for many of its visitors. Two years ago the Dinosaurs display boosted attendances to 256,000. Last year the figure was 110,000.

Much of its collection, including the Middleham Jewel, comes from outside York.



The Middleham Jewel, found in Wensleydale and bought by the museum for £2.5 million in 1991

The jewel was bought for £2.5 million in 1991 after being unearthed near Richard III's castle in Wensleydale, North Yorkshire.

Brian Hayton, the museum's director, said that it had been described as a centre of excellence and a brand leader. York's submission to the Boundaries Commission indicated that it would concentrate on the city, reducing its operation to "a rump". That would stop innovation and creativity, curtail research, as well as its inquiry service and its support of 10 small museums in North Yorkshire.

The suggestions were rejected by Paul Chesmore, York's leisure services director. He said that Mr Hayton was fundamentally wrong. Facilities would be available to outsiders, although they would be charged for. "Perhaps the Yorkshire Museum is a traditional establishment. The new authority will expect it to maximise its potential. This is the real world we live in. The claims are complete hysteria, over-exaggerated and a misrepresentation of what we want to achieve."

Church news

Appointments

The Rev Andrew Doughty, Vicar, Chilworth and North Baddesley (Winchester): to be Rector, St Mary's, Warwick, Bermuda.

The Rev Barry Eves, Priest-in-charge, Bubwith and Skipwith: to be Vicar, Bubwith and Skipwith (York).

The Rev Peter Farrow, Industrial Chaplain, diocese Norwich: to be Team Vicar designate, St Faith's Team Ministry, Gaywood, same diocese.

The Rev Brian Gant, Vicar designate, Wymondham w Silfield and Spooner Row: now *also* an Honorary Canon of St Cyprian's Cathedral, diocese of Kumasi, Ghana.

The Rev Robert Gordon, Curate, Bideford: to be Priest-in-charge, Feniton, Escot and Buckerell (Exeter).

The Rev Canon Martin Greenfield, Assistant Curate, Langdon Hills (Chelmsford): to be Rector, Brampton (Ely).

The Rev Richard Harding, Vicar, Longdon, Castlemorton, Bushley, Queenhill w Holdfast: to be Priest-in-charge, Catshill and Dodford (Worcester).

The Rev David Heron, Rector, Willington and Sunnybrow: to be Vicar, united benefice of Dipton and Leadgate (Durham).

The Rev David Ison, Exeter Diocesan Officer for Continuing Ministerial Education: to be *also* Canon Residentiary of Exeter Cathedral.

The Rev Ian Johnstone, Vicar, St Paul's, Morley (Wakefield): to be Vicar, St Paul's, Manton, Workshop (Southwell).

The Rev John Lefroy, Vicar, Upchurch w Lower Halstow: to be *also* Priest-in-charge, Iwade (Canterbury).

The Rev Peter Mackenzie, Rector, St Martin and St Paul, Canterbury: to be *also* Rural Dean of Canterbury (Canterbury).

The Rev Canon Peter Mason, Vicar, All Saints, Maldon: to be *also* Rural Dean of Maldon and Dengie (Chelmsford).

The Rev Colin Matthews, Centre Director, St Saviour's Church, Guildford: to be Vicar, Burpham St Luke (Guildford).

The Rev John Moore, Vicar, St Thomas, Boston: to be Priest-in-charge, Coningsby w Tattershall and Thorpe (Lincoln).

The Rev Gordon Sleight, Vicar, Crosby, Scunthorpe: to be Priest-in-charge, Nettleham w Riseholme and Grange de Lings, and Lincolnshire Course Director with the East Midlands Ministerial Training Course (Lincoln).

Today's royal engagements

The Queen will hold an investiture at Buckingham Palace at 11.00.

The Duke of Edinburgh, as Patron of the British Health Care Association, will present the British Health Care awards at St James's Palace at 12.30.

The Princess Royal, as Patron of the National Association of Victim Support Schemes, will attend a one-day conference "The Influence of the Victims on Criminal Justice" at the Royal Society of Arts at 9.55; will attend a luncheon hosted by the Spanish Ambassador at 24 Belgrave Square at 1.00 to mark the Save the Children Fund receiving the Prince of Asturia's prize; will present The Princess Royal Award for outstanding achievement for the benefit of the UK dairy industry at Buckingham Palace at 3.00; and, as Patron of the Home Farm Trust, will attend the launch of the Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames project at the Kingston Guildhall at 5.30.

The Duke of Kent, as Patron of the British Menswear Guild, will visit Murray Allan of Innerleithen. The Cleikum Mill, Innerleithen, at 11.30; will visit Ballantyne of Walkerburn, Tweedvale Mill, Walkerburn, Peebleshire, at 1.55; and, as Patron of the Royal Television Society, will attend the journalism and sports awards at the London Hilton on Park Lane at 7.00.

The Duchess of Kent, as Chancellor, will visit Leeds University at 11.00; as President of Action Research, will visit the Neo-natal Intensive Care Centre, the Clarendon Wing, Leeds General Infirmary, at 1.55; and will open the Variety Club of Great Britain children's day hospital and the Lincoln wing at St James's University Hospital, Beckett Street, Leeds, at 3.05.

Baroness Smith of Gilmorehill

The life barony conferred upon Mrs Elizabeth Margaret Smith (widow of Mr John Smith, QC) has been gazetted by the name, style and title of Baroness Smith of Gilmorehill, of Gilmorehill in the District of the City of Glasgow.

Master Richardson

A Service of Thanksgiving for the life of His Honour Judge Kenneth Richardson, QC, a Master of the Bench and Past Treasurer of the Middle Temple, will be held in the Temple Church on Thursday, March 9, 1995, at 5pm.

Meeting

Royal Over-Seas League

Sir Gordon Borrie, QC, Chairman of the Commission of Social Justice, was the guest speaker at a meeting of the Discussion Circle of the Royal Over-Seas League held last night at Over-Seas House, St James's. Mrs Elizabeth Cresswell presided.

Latest wills

Recent estates include (net before tax):

Mr Edward Wilfred **Wagstaff**, of Lapworth, Warwickshire £2,215,692.

Mr John Frederick **Pearce**, of Henley-in-Arden, Warwickshire £1,110,089.

Frances Margaret **Pike**, of Chichester, West Sussex..... £1,040,944.

Election

Mr Graham Couper Law has been elected Academician of the Royal Scottish Academy.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr A.J. Buckle
and Miss C.E. Holland
The engagement is announced between Andrew, son of Mr and Mrs John Buckle, of Maidstone, Kent, and Clare, daughter of Mr Roger Holland, of Sunningdale, Berkshire, and Mrs Mary Holland, of Cranbrook, Kent.

Mr M.W.D. Dent
and Miss E.J. Stanley
The engagement is announced between Matthew, youngest son of Mr and Mrs J.W.M. Dent, of Withington, Hereford, and Jane, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Richard Stanley, of Gate Fulford, York.

Mr M.J. Hubbard
and Miss S. McCullough
The engagement is announced between Mark, eldest son of Mr Michael Hubbard, FRCS, of Llanddulas, Clwyd, and Dr B.M. Hubbard, of Longfield, Kent, and Sharon, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Patrick McCullough, of Warrenpoint, Co Down.

Mr P.H.G. Littlehales
and Miss C.J. McKay
The engagement is announced between Philip, younger twin son of Mr and Mrs Peter Littlehales, and Katy, eldest daughter of Mr Iain McKay and Mrs Janie McKay.

Mr A.D. MacDermot
and Miss S.J. Gleeson
The engagement is announced between Alan, eldest son of Mr and Mrs B.C. MacDermot, of Wetherden, Suffolk, and Sheila, youngest daughter of Mrs F. Gleeson and the late Mr J.P. Gleeson, of Wimbledon, London.

Mr A.D.A. Macfadyen
and Miss C.Z. Jones
The engagement is announced between Angus David Alistair, son of Dr and Mrs David Macfadyen, of Copenhagen, and Edinburgh, and Catherine Zeta, daughter of Mr and Mrs David James Jones, of Swansea, South Wales.

Mr A. Pharaony
and Miss M-L. Muir
The engagement is announced between André, son of Mr Kamil Pharaony, of Miami, USA, and of Mrs Hélène Pharaony-Timacheff, of Cannes, France, and Marie-Louise, daughter of Mr and Mrs James Muir, of Riding Mill, Northumberland.

Mr S.H. Scott
and Dr J.M. Tripp
The engagement is announced between Simon, son of Mr and Mrs J. Scott, of Woodnorton, Norfolk, and Judy, daughter of Mr and Mrs R. Tripp, of Stanton, Suffolk.

Mr P.D. Yallop
and Miss F.A. Lang
The engagement is announced between Paul, son of Mr David Yallop, of Woburn, Bedfordshire, and Mrs Anthony Stiles, of Croyde Bay, Devon, and Fiona, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Eric Lang, of Banstead, Surrey.

Marriage

Mr T.J. O'Meara
and Mrs L. Cooper
The marriage took place on February 14 in East Sussex between Timothy O'Meara and Liliane Cooper.

Reception

Sternberg Centre for Judaism

The Ambassadors of Switzerland and The Netherlands and the Mayor and Mayoress of Barnet were among the guests who visited the Sternberg Centre for Judaism in Finchley on Sunday. They were welcomed by Sir Sigmund Sternberg and viewed the exhibition at the London Museum of Jewish Life entitled "A Good Jew and a Good Englishman".



TRADE: 0171 481 1982
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

PERSONAL COLUMN

FAX: 0171 481 9313
FAX: 0171 782 7828

Why should the nations ask, "Where is there God?" Before our very eyes may those nations know your vengeance for the slaughter of your servants.
Psalm 79 : 10

BIRTHS

BELFIELD - On 12th February, at Winchester, to Drusilla (née Bates) and Gervase, a son, Felix Swithun Theodore, a brother for Daisy and Matilda. Deo Gratias.

BERNSTEIN - On 14th February 1995 at the Wellington Hospital, to Alison (née Levene) and David, a special brother for Sheri Paige.

BLAKE - James born on 16th February at the Wellington Hospital, a son, to Debbie and Stewart, a special brother to Harry.

BOOTH-CLIBBORN - On February 16th, to Karen (née Kee) and Patrick, a daughter, Anna Rose, a sister for Helena and Millie.

BOUND - On 16th February in Guernsey, to Elaine (née Schofield) and Christopher, a son, Aubrey.

BUTLER - On 11th February 1995, to Deborah (née Cook) and Richard, a daughter, Katherine Philippa Mary, a sister for Nicholas.

CASSON - On 8th February, to Randal and Alison, a son, Christopher James. First grandchild of Anthony and Jannetje Casson, Australia, fifth for Ken and Olive Utley and first great-grandchild for John Casson.

CATTANEO - On February 18th at The Portland Hospital, to Emilio and Cristiana, a lovely baby boy, Stefano.

CHISHOLM - On 14th February 1995, to Judith and David, a daughter, Ella Jane, a sister for Rory.

CLEARKIN - Patrick James Augustine, born at home, 19th February 1995, (8lbs 8oz). A son for Karen and Louis, a brother for Annie.

FRANKLIN - On February 17th at The Portland Hospital, to Jane (née Green) and Nigel, a daughter, Hannah Daisy, a sister for David.

HALSTEAD - On February 18th 1995 at The Portland Hospital, to Sarah (née Beattie) and Andrew, a son, Jack Frederick George.

HOPTON - On February 17th, to Hattie and Nick, a son, Otto.

LAIRD - On 17th February, to Annabel and Iain, a daughter, Sarah Alice Mary.

MARTIN - On February 11th 1995, to Amanda and Tim, a son, William Edward David.

BIRTHS

MOCATTA - On 19th February 1995, to Jane (née Bewsey) and Robert, a son, Edward William.

MORITA - On February 17th at The Portland Hospital, to Mutsuko (née Bando) and Toru, a beautiful baby boy, Norihiro, a good friend for Donna, petdog.

MORTON - On February 10th, to Geraldine (nés Cavanagh) and Alan, a son, Bradley Alexander.

NICHOLLS - On 16th February, to Divya (née Bhatia) and John, a son, Thomas Rai.

PEREIRA - On February 17th, to Caroline (née Brooks) and Pedro, a daughter, Kalya Caroline, a sister for Tessa.

PHILLIPS - On February 20th 1995, to Paula and Nicholas, a son, Daniel James Pares, a brother for Alexander.

PRESTON - On February 17th 1995, to Caroline (née Reid) and David, a son, Harry Edward John, a brother for Eleanor.

PRINJA - Mr and Mrs T.R. Sud are overjoyed to announce the birth of their beautiful granddaughter, Shivali Prinja, on 11th February 1995. May God bless her with a long and prosperous life.

RYAN - On February 1st, to Jane (née Du Cane) and Terence, a son, Tom, our treasured early arrival.

SINGLETON - On 18th February, to Rosina (née Helm) and Michael, a son, John Matthew Douglas.

THURINGER - On February 13th, to Lindsay (née Fleming) and John, a daughter, Abigail Lucy, a sister for Jessica and Nicholas.

VAN HOLTHE TOT ECHTEN - At The Portland Hospital on 17th February, to Tove (née Jungqvist) and Sam, a son, Frederick Sebastian, a brother for Victoria and Charlotte.

WALLACE - Born 13th February at the Princess Anne Hospital, Southampton, to Jilly (née Curry) and Robin, a son, Lloyd Ellison.

WARD-LILLEY - On February 16th 1995, to James and Julia (née Segrove), a son, Alexander Nicholas.

WIGAN - On February 16th at The Portland Hospital, to Julia and Dominic, a daughter, Neala Megan, a sister for Anna.

DEATHS

ARMSTRONG - On February 19th, peacefully, Joan Maud, of Fairwarp, Sussex, aged 88. Cremation private. Memorial Service at Christ Church, Fairwarp, on Friday March 10th at 2.30 pm.

BAKER - On February 16th 1995, suddenly but peacefully at Brendon Care Nursing Home, Frogfield, nr. Marlborough. Iris aged 89 years, the much loved mother of Jane and Tom, grandmother of Caroline, Chantal and Ned. Private cremation has taken place. Thanksgiving Service and interment at St Mary's Church, Bucklebury, on Friday February 24th at 2.30 pm. Floral tributes or donations, for the Brendon Care Foundation, may be sent to Camp Hopson Funeral Directors, 6/12 Northbrook Street, Newbury, Berks. RG13 1DN, tel: (01635) 522210.

BOUCHER - Colonel William Scott Hamilton (Bill), beloved husband of Jane and father of Henry, Alice and Lucy, suddenly on 18th February 1995. Funeral Service at Ickham Church on Monday 27th February at 2.30 pm. Family flowers only. Donations to Ickham Church Appeal c/o C.W. Lyons & Son Ltd., St Gregory's, 70 Military Road, Canterbury CT1 1ND.

CHANCE - On 17th February in Australia, Peter Kenneth, loved husband of Tip.

COVINGTON - On the evening of Valentine's Day, Peggy, two weeks after her 75th birthday. Donations to any children's charity would be greatly appreciated. Further information if required to J.H. Kenyon, (071) 229-3810.

DAVIES - On February 19th 1995, at home peacefully after a short illness, Edward Roy O.B.E., in his 92nd year. Husband of the late Kathleen, much loved by Jill and Etienne, Susan, Carol and Ger and family. Thanksgiving Service All Saints Church, Bisham, Marlow, on Saturday 25th February at 11 am. No flowers, donations to Bisham School Extension Fund.

DOUGLASS - Norman Stephen Furness (Tony) of Faringdon, Oxfordshire, previously of Cherbury House, Longworth, died suddenly on 15th February 1995. Funeral Service at St Mary's Church, Longworth, Oxfordshire, on Wednesday 1st March at 2 pm. Family flowers only.

EDWARDS - Peacefully on February 17th aged 76, Harry M.B.E., past Headmaster of Queen Elizabeth Hospital and House Master of Clifton College Bristol, Chairman of St George's Music Trust Bristol. Private cremation. Memorial Service will be held at a later date. No flowers, donations to St George's Music Trust, Brandon Hill, Bristol, BS1 5PZ.

FARMER - On 17th February at White Lodge Nursing Home, Maidenhead, Kathleen aged 96, widow of Charles and mother of Michael.

FITZPATRICK - On 17th February at home, after much suffering, Professor Reginald Jack, Ph.D., B.Sc., (Physiol) B.Sc. (Vet Sci.) MRCVS. Private family funeral.

FOXWELL - On February 19th 1995, in Kettering, Elisabeth aged 70 years, dearly loved wife of Byrne, mother of Alice, Stephen and Helen and loving granny of her ten grandchildren. Funeral Service Kettering Parish Church on Friday February 24th at 12.15 pm, followed by private cremation. Family flowers only please. Donations, if desired, for Great Ormond Street Hospital c/o Jack Warwick Funeral Director, 2A Wallis Road, Kettering, (0536) 85635.

GOODLAD - Robert, on 16th February 1995, in Peacehaven Nursing Home, beloved husband of Jane Murray. Funeral Service at St Margaret's Church, The Green, Rottingdean, Brighton, on Friday 24th February at 4 pm. Enquiries to E. Carter & Son, tel: (01273) 303467.

GRANT - On 19th February, peacefully at Heatherdale Residential Home, Northumberland, Barbara Violet Alice Grant, aged 90, widow of Dr. Robert Grant of Minster Thanet.

HEPPERSTALL - On 20th February, suddenly but peacefully, Peggy, dearly loved wife of Philip, mother of Nigel and Pat, grandmother of Pippa and Nicholas, of 104 Ralph Perrin Court, Beckenham. Funeral Service on Tuesday 28th February at St George's Church, Beckenham at 11.45am. to be followed by a cremation at Birkbeck Crematorium, and afterwards at Ralph Perrin Court, Stone Park Avenue, Beckenham. Flowers to Francis Chappell & Sons, 238 Beckenham High Street, (0181) 650-0304.

HULBERT - Peacefully on 17th February 1995, at her home in Honiton, Devon, Thelma (Artist) aged 81 years, formerly of Bath and London. Sadly missed by her many friends. Funeral Service at The Exeter and Devon Crematorium, Topsham Road, Exeter, Thursday 23rd February 1pm. No flowers. Donations, if desired, to an appropriate charity. Enquiries to Layzell Funeral Services, Awliscombe, Honiton, tel: (01404) 42308.

HUNT - On 18th February peacefully at home in Cambridge, Catharine, after a short illness, much loved mother and grandmother. Funeral Service at St Mark's Church, Barton Road, Cambridge, at 2 pm on Saturday 25th February. No flowers please, but donations if desired to The Garden House Hospice, Leichworth c/o Harry Williams & Sons, 7 Victoria Park, Cambridge.

KOPELMAN - Joan Margaret (Hazel), suddenly in hospital on 16th February aged 72 years. Adored wife, mother and Ga to Harry, Michael, Peter, Sophie, Sue, Sarah, Claire, Kate, Jackie and Tom. A wonderful person who will be dearly missed. Funeral Service at Parndon Wood Crematorium, Harlow, 2 pm Wednesday, 22nd February. No flowers by request but donations if desired to The Royal Medical Benevolent Fund, 24 King's Road, London SW19 8QN.

LISTER - On February 16th, Samuel William C.Eng. FIMech.E. MA.Cantab. Esc., the day after his 88th birthday, beloved, loving husband of Dame Unity (Wesley). Cremation private, please no flowers. Thanksgiving Service at St John's Church, Elham, at 12.45 pm on Wednesday March 1st and afterwards at No.32 to which all friends are welcome.

LOUIS - John J., Jr Former U.S.A. Ambassador, on Wednesday, 15th February at home in Winnetka, Illinois, U.S.A. Husband of Josephine and father of Kimberly Stewart, Traci Merrill and Jeffry. Memorial service on Monday 20th February. Donations may be sent to:- The Chicago Horticultural Society, c/o John J. Louis, Jr Bright Encounters, P.O. Box 400, Glencoe, Ill. 60022-0400 or Evanston Hospital, John J. Louis, Jr. Fund for The Henrietta Johnson Louis Special Infant Care Unit, 2650 Ridge Avenue, Evanston, Ill. 60201.

MATHER - On Saturday 18th February 1995, in Jersey, Channel Islands, peacefully after a short illness, Bertrand, aged 80 years, formerly of Alderman of the City of Leeds. Husband of the late Jean, father of Christopher and Pauline and grandfather to Frances and Edward. The funeral service will be held at the Crematorium, Westmount Road, Jersey, on Monday 27th February at 12.30 pm. Family flowers only please. Donations, if desired, to The Wine and Spirit Trades Benevolent Association, Five Kings House, 1 Queen Street Place, London EC4R 1QS or The Imperial Cancer Fund, PO Box 123, Lincolns Inn Fields, London WC2A 3PX. Enquiries to Pilcher & Le Quesne Ltd, Funeral Directors, tel: (01634) 55330.

McGRATH - Kenneth, late of Badingham, Suffolk, died peacefully in hospital on February 18th 1995 after a long illness, loving husband of Patricia and father of Jean and Keith, grandfather of James and Lorna. Funeral Service at Bruisyard Church at 2 pm on Thursday February 23rd, followed by private cremation. Family flowers only please. Donations, if desired, for Bruisyard Church Restoration Fund c/o Moore Bros., 13 Station Road, Framlingham, Suffolk IP13 9EA.

MOULD - Amble on 17th February, Peter. Funeral Service Thursday 23rd February at 12.30 pm in St Cuthbert's Parish Church. No flowers by request. Donations in lieu if desired to Professor Procter, North Tyneside Leukaemia Research c/o Haematology Department, R.V.I. Newcastle-upon-Tyne, NE1 4LP.

PLUMLEY - On Friday February 17th, peacefully at home in Brighton, Mavis Sheila Margaret (Gay), beloved wife of Charles, mother of Russell and proud grandmother of Lila, Elsa and Leigh. Cremation at Woodvale Crematorium, Brighton, on Friday February 24th at 3 pm. No flowers by request but if desired donations for the Alzheimer's Disease Society may be sent to S.E. Skinner & Sons, 145 Lewes Road, Brighton, tel: (01273) 607446.

ROBERTS - Maurice died peacefully on 19th February 1995, at the Royal Star & Garter Home, Richmond upon Thames. Formerly BNS, ICI and CBI. Much loved and loving father of Michael, Bill, Bron and Hugh and a dear brother, grandfather, father-in-law, uncle and great-uncle. Funeral service at Mortlake Crematorium 11.30 am on Monday 27th February. Flowers to Holmes & Sons, 378 Richmond Road, East Twickenham.

SAGOVSKY - On February 17th 1995, Nina (née Orloff), aged 86 years, widow of Roman. Survived by daughters Marianna and Katia. Funeral Service at The Russian Orthodox Cathedral, London SW7, on Friday February 24th at 11 am, followed by cremation Putney Vale. 12.30 pm. Flowers to Leverton & Sons Ltd. Funeral Directors, 212 Evershott Street, London NW1 by 9 am.

SALT - David, aged 86, beloved husband, died on Monday, 13th February 1995 and buried on Friday, 17th February at Edgwarebury Lane Cemetery, Edgeware, London. Sadly missed.

SMITH - Peter Graham of Ealing, died suddenly, aged 53 on 15th February. He is survived by his wife Marylin, daughter Heather, son Graeme and mother Peta. Funeral at St Peter's Church, Mount Park Road, London W5 on 22nd February at 2 pm. Donations in lieu of flowers to British Heart Foundation c/o Christopher Wickenden Funeral Services, 71 Greenford Avenue, Hanwell, London W7 1LJ.

SMYTHE - On February 18th 1995, at Crieff Cottage Hospital, Charles Maidone, Methven, Perthshire. Much loved husband of Gill, dear father and grandfather. Funeral Service at Perth Crematorium on Thursday February 23rd at 2.30 pm. Family flowers only please, but donations in lieu may be given for Cancer Research.

SNEDDON - On Friday 17th February 1995, Alastair Reginald George, beloved husband of Audrey, much loved by son Gavin, daughter-in-law Josephine, grandchildren Claire, Briony and Edward. Funeral on Friday 24th February at 11am at Isle of Wight Crematorium. Family flowers only, donations to RNLI.

STOTT - On February 18th peacefully Bertha aged 93, formerly of Oxford, beloved mother of Judith, Richard and the late John Stott. Cremation 2 pm at Oxford Thursday 23rd February. Enquiries to Green & Co., 21 High Street, Eynsham, Oxon. (0865) 880857.

VARCOE-COCKS - Peacefully at home on Saturday February 18th 1995, after an illness borne with bravery and good humour, Violet Bell Emslie of Windover, Rosehill Crescent, Banchory, Kincardineshire. Beloved wife of the late Douglas, much loved mother of Afra, Michael and Selwyn and grandmother of Richard, Susan, Natalie and Katrina. Funeral Service at Banchory East Church on Friday February 24th at 11.30 am, thereafter to churchyard. All friends are respectfully invited. Resting at Mackintosh & Steven's Rest Rooms, 2 High Street, Banchory.

WATERS - Garth, peacefully after a short illness on 17th February 1995. Greatly missed by his wife Ann, his children John, Jeremy, Timothy and Helen, his family and his many friends. Funeral at St Marylebone Crematorium, East End Road, N2, at 2 pm on Thursday 23rd February. Flowers or donations to the National Asthma Campaign may be sent to Leverton & Sons Ltd., 1 Denmark Terrace, Fortis Green, N2.

WATT - Peacefully at home Balcaughal on Saturday 18th February 1995, Peggy, much loved wife of Sandy, adored mother of James, Pamela and Ian, and cherished grandmother of Amanda, Laura, Jamie, Charlie and Harry. Funeral private, followed by a memorial service at St John's Episcopal Church, Princes Street, Perth, on Wednesday 1st March at 2.30 pm to which all are invited. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to be shared between Macmillan and Marie Curie Nursing Funds c/o Miller Hendry W.S., Blackfriar's Street, Perth.

WRIGHT - Star, dearly loved sister, mother and grandmother, peacefully at Flitkins. Thanksgiving at Eastleach Parish Church, 12 noon Saturday March 4th. No flowers please but contributions to NSPCC.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

HOWARD-WHITE - A Memorial Service will be held for Marjorie Kathleen Howard-White (née Alderson), widow of Frank Buller Howard-White, at 2.30 pm on Saturday 13th May at St Thomas on the Bourne, Farnham.

IN MEMORIAM — WAR

H.M.S. Vervain - Flower Class Corvette: member of B5 Escort Group: torpedoed and sunk, whilst in position astern of convoy HX337 about lunch-time 20th February 1945, off south coast of Eire, with the loss of over 60 lives. Also of U-Boat U.1208, promptly despatched a few minutes later with the loss of over 40 lives. Remembered by an Action Officer of the Watch present at the time in a friendly Captain Class Frigate. With the thought that whilst this small episode of a greater war was necessary at the time, it showed what a bloody and stupid waste war can be and better that we should not forget it. For those who are lucky enough to have a God, ask him to do the forgiving.

IN MEMORIAM — PRIVATE

ROWLANDSON - Lady Vera Elworthy, lovingly remembered Richard, Elizabeth and Edward.

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OBITUARIES

HAROLD ROBINSON

Harold Robinson, OBE, rocket scientist and space programme administrator, died on January 4 aged 70. He was born on April 2, 1924.

RESPECTED throughout the aerospace world for his research and development work, Harold Robinson was associated with the early post-war British rocket programmes. These led to the generation of guided missiles which entered service with the British Armed Forces in the 1950s. But his finest achievement (and the one he found most fulfilling) was his work on ballistic missiles and satellite launchers during the 1950s and early 1960s when Britain was still participating in aerospace activity at this level.

In 1954 the Hawker Siddeley Dynamics rocket, Blue Streak, the proposed British ballistic missile, was in the course of development and data was needed on the effects on the warhead of its re-entry into the atmosphere. A smaller rocket test vehicle was designed to provide the information and Robinson was selected to lead this major project.

The first Black Knight was launched successfully in 1958 from the rocket range at Woomera in Australia and the programme continued with Blue Streak launches until 1965. Latterly these took place as a joint British/Australian/US venture, with more than 20 successful missions.

Many international experts and organisations were involved in the programme but the ultimate responsibility, particularly in the early years, was Robinson's. Despite uncertain and fluctuating government policy (which in the end led to Britain ceasing to play any significant role in ballistic missile development and satellite launching) Robinson's profound grasp of all aspects of strategic rocket vehicle technology made him pre-eminent as an authority in Europe, and he was highly regarded in the United States.

Harold George Robert Robinson was educated at Portsmouth Northern Grammar School. He first worked as an apprentice in the dockyard and from there won a Whitworth scholarship to Imperial College, London, taking his BSc in 1948.

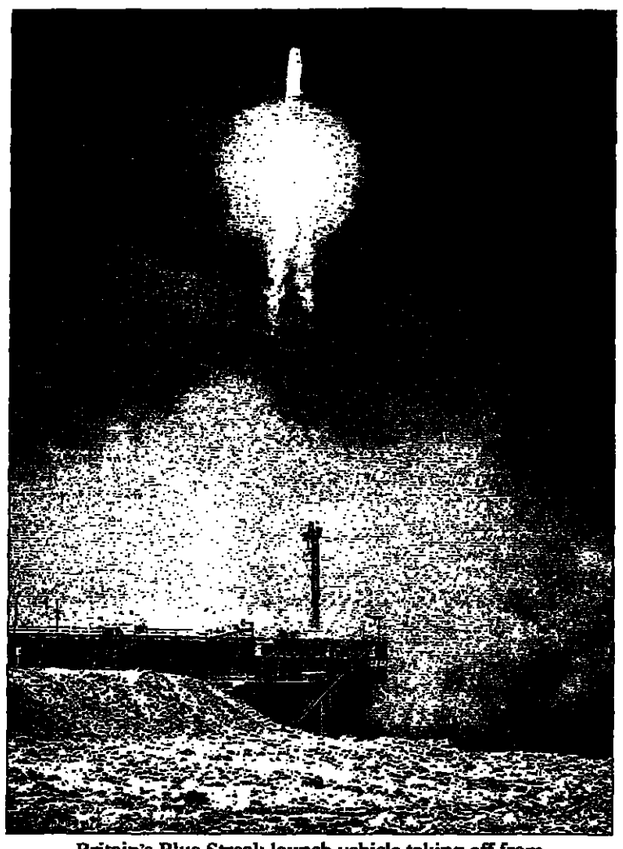
He joined the Royal Aircraft Establishment, Farnborough, in 1948 and in 1961 was appointed head of the satellite launcher division. Although Blue Streak had been cancelled as a ballistic missile it had been granted a temporary reprieve as the first stage of a potential European satellite launch vehicle, which in 1964 became the responsibility of the European Launcher Development Organisation (Eldo). Robinson played a prominent part in the formation of Eldo and was the key British technical contact with it. As the scientific officer in charge he led the successful international flight trials which took place at Woomera in 1964. In this role he demonstrated his remarkable organisational skills as well as his technical knowledge.

For his contribution he was appointed OBE in 1961. He was also awarded the Bronze Medal of the Royal Aeronautical Society.

In parallel with this activity Robinson pursued an earlier idea which derived from the success of the Black Knight programme. In 1963 he showed how its design could be developed into the Black Arrow, a small British satellite launch vehicle capable of placing about 100kg into near-earth orbit when launched from Woomera. Government approval for the proposal was, at best, lukewarm and it was not until 1965 that limited funding was made available.

Eventually in 1971 Black Arrow launched the scientific satellite Prospero, long after Robinson had left the project, but the success owed much to the foresight and detail of his early design work. Development of Black Arrow as an independent launch facility was abandoned by the Government just before this successful launch.

In 1965 Robinson was transferred to head the Avionics Department of the Royal Aircraft Estblishment. There he applied his technical and management skills to the problem of charting the future for the rapidly expanding potential of complex, integrated electronic systems in military aircraft. Many of the electronic systems in service in current UK aircraft stem from research led by him over this period.



Britain's Blue Streak launch vehicle taking off from the Woomera rocket range in Australia in 1964

In 1969, under growing economic pressure, the Government was seeking to exploit the application of advanced defence technology and research to UK civil industry more generally and looked to a man with Robinson's combination of technical knowledge and experience of industry. Somewhat reluctantly he made the move to London to lead this initiative from the Ministry of Technology.

But even during this period he maintained a strong interest in space matters and in 1969-70 served as president of the Astronautics Committee of the Fédération Aéronautique Internationale and was awarded the Paul Tissandier Diploma.

However, after after a frustrating two years Robinson returned to the aerospace R&D field, and in 1974 was appointed Under-Secretary, Space and Air Research, in what had become the Department of Industry, charged with the difficult task of managing a further reduction in government support to both sectors of UK industry.

A move back to the RAE in 1976 as the deputy director responsible for all equipment programmes provided a welcome opportunity for a more direct impact once again on practical research endeavours in an exciting range of high technology areas. But by 1981 changes in the structure of Ministry of Defence senior scientific staff led to Robinson's recall to London. The creation of a sensitive post aimed at reconciling the short and long-term defence research requirements with the dwindling resources available, needed not only his extensive technical knowledge but all the tact and determination he possessed. It is to his great credit that he managed to satisfy both "customer" and "supplier" in this delicate relationship until his retirement in 1984.

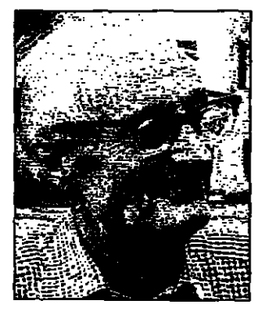
Robinson spent the next ten years as a consultant on a wide range of technical activities primarily concerned with aerospace. His extensive knowledge was greatly valued by his various clients. On his desk when he died was an almost completed report on the problems of high speed cargo-carrying airships.

Harold Robinson will be remembered by colleagues and friends for the infectious enthusiasm which he brought to bear on all his work and his cheerful demeanour, even when under heavy pressure. He enjoyed several leisure activities; he was a keen, talented photographer, exhibiting the results of his art locally. He also designed, built, and flew model aircraft and in his last few years played bowls with enthusiasm and much enjoyment.

Robinson married in 1955, Sonja Lapthorn; they had two sons. His wife and children survive him.

PATRICK MARTIN-SMITH

Patrick Martin-Smith, MC, former Intelligence Officer, died on January 20 aged 77. He was born on September 26, 1917.



PAT MARTIN-SMITH, a reserved and scholarly man, had a gallant and distinguished wartime record which was followed by 25 years as an officer of the Secret Intelligence Service — a career which ended in some disappointment on his part.

A devout Roman Catholic, Patrick Geoffrey Brian Martin-Smith was educated at Downside and Clare College, Cambridge, where he read French, German and History. He then spent a few months with the Midland Bank before the outbreak of the Second World War.

He was commissioned into the Worcester Regiment in May 1940 and served from 1940 to 1943 with No 12 Commando, participating in one operation to Norway and one to France. He then transferred to No 30 Commando and took part in the landings in Sicily and at Salerno.

In early 1944 he joined No 1 Special Force of the Special Operations Executive and in July was parachuted into northern Italy some 200 miles behind the German lines to operate across the border into Austria. He served with the Italian partisans in that area. By November snow had closed the passes into Austria and increasingly intensive enemy action in the area caused his mission to be withdrawn. He then conducted the rest of his mission on a 300-mile march in the snow through north-east Italy and Slovenia before being evacuated back to base after Christmas. For these operations he was awarded the MC in 1945.

The end of the war found him in Austria. He moved from SOE to SIS (MI6), into which he was assimilated as a career officer in 1947, serving until his retirement in 1970. His foreign assignments included Vienna, Warsaw, Istanbul, Kinshasa and Tel Aviv. These postings were interspersed with spells at headquarters, including a prolonged period between 1957 and 1964. A task which fell to him during this period was the preparation and circulation of intelligence provided by Oleg Penkovsky, which was decisive in the resolution of the 1962 Cuban missile crisis.

Tasks of this sort brought out the best in Martin-Smith: his meticulous accuracy, his selfless dedication, the soundness of his judgment, his wide knowledge and retentive memory. These were not, though, showy virtues. Martin-Smith could appear taciturn and shy. Indeed, his SIS career finished on less good a note, when he failed to persuade his superiors in London that he was the right man to handle the aggressive and extrovert Israelis with whom he was doing business.

After his retirement, he lived for a year in Malta and thereafter divided his time between London and south-western France. His interests were to a large extent centered on his wartime experiences in northeastern Italy and specifically on a book, *Friuli 44*, in which he described them. This remained unpublished in the United Kingdom but was published in Italy in 1991 in translation. Martin-Smith's wartime contribution to the liberation of Italy was much appreciated by his Italian friends and colleagues, who after his death sent their condolences for "a brave soldier and a faithful friend".

He was married in 1947 to Phyllis Brown. She survives him, with their two sons.

SIR OLIVER BARNETT



Sir Oliver Barnett, CBE, QC, Judge Advocate General of the Armed Forces, 1962-68, died on February 3 aged 86. He was born on February 7, 1907.

OLIVER BARNETT was a man of the law both in his professional career and in his spare time. His rise to the top in the Judge Advocate General's office coincided with far-reaching changes in the law and scope of the job.

At the age of 18 he became a special constable and served part-time as such until the Second World War. At the age of 21 he had been for three years an unofficial prison visitor. He was deputy chairman of Somerset Quarter Sessions, 1967-71.

By the time Oliver Barnett was appointed Judge Advocate General in 1962 the office had become, as it is now, a wholly judicial department under the Lord Chancellor. It had narrowed in speciality from the days when all legal components of military justice were the JAG's responsibility including oversight of the prosecution of offences. The office has responsibility for appropriate legal matters in the Army and RAF but not in the Royal Navy, whose equivalent legal adviser is the Judge Advocate of the Fleet.

Oliver Charles Barnett was the son of Charles Barnett who was killed in action with the Gloucestershire Regiment (TA) in 1915 — his son was then just eight. He was educated at Eton and was called to the Bar by the Middle Temple in 1928. He went on to the staff of the Director of Public Prosecutions after three years in practice on the Oxford circuit.

He transferred to the office of the Judge Advocate General in 1934. The mixture of the traditions of the law and the armed services fascinated him. He found the work absorbing and as a consequence made speedy progress in his career.

Barnett had joined the judicial section of the department. Within the office he helped the Judge Advocate General to oversee the operation of justice in the services. The three or four civilian barristers in the judicial section sat as judge advocates at courts martial, bringing their legal expertise to the hearing of cases.

Adding to the responsibility of the Judge Advocate General was the onerous task of having the final say on military legal issues, since no Courts Martial Appeal Court then existed.

Barnett's rise was rapid from his first appointment as legal assistant to second deputy judge advocate in 1937 and first deputy in 1938. The Judge Advocate General's office expanded with the coming of the Second World War and mobilisation, with its judicial and prosecuting departments drawing on the recruitment of lawyers from among those who had joined the services. Since the judicial staff were commissioned into the forces, Barnett found himself in the Royal Air Force.

He was demobilised at the end of the war with the rank of wing commander and as an assistant judge advocate general. But in 1947 he was re-employed as an assistant judge advocate general (Army and RAF), and was to remain in that office until 1953.

With his experience he was ideally placed to handle, with his colleagues, wide changes in military law and the way in which it was administered. The Judge Advocate General's office took on a purely judicial role but with four or five times as many judicial staff as before the war and with barristers chosen and appointed by the Lord Chancellor.

Barnett, who had the gifts of a diplomat, was ideally suited to negotiations with the Lord Chancellor's staff and the Treasury to determine pay and conditions of service for the judge advocates and other matters. By the time the new Army and Air Force Acts had been enacted in 1955, replacing and modernising long-standing Acts governing the two services, Barnett had served longer than any other member of the advisory staff in the office.

His knowledge was invaluable; indeed it was so much prized that he did not have the chance of an overseas posting until 1953 when he became deputy judge advocate general to the Army and the RAF in Germany, where he served the British Army of the Rhine, and in Austria. After two years he was back in London as vice-judge advocate general.

He succeeded Sir Frederick Gentle, QC, as Judge Advocate General in 1962 and retired in 1968. Barnett was knighted in 1968, having been appointed OBE in 1946 and advanced to CBE in 1954. He took silk in 1956.

Oliver Barnett modestly underplayed his own formidable intellect by claiming that, in order to succeed, he had had to develop other attributes. He was diligent and applied his deep knowledge of the job to good purpose. His thoroughness and concentration were legendary and he had a much-admired grasp of detail. These were the qualities he sought to make the professional hallmark of his office.

Barnett was elected a master of the bench of the Middle Temple in 1964. He was a member of Pratt's and of Brooks's, where he was for many years wine member.

He married in 1945 Joan Eve, whose father, like his, had also been killed in action during the First World War, while serving as a captain in the 13th Hussars in 1917.

His wife survives him. There were no children.

SIR WILLIAM SLIMMINGS

Sir William Slimmings, CBE, chartered accountant, died on January 27 aged 82. He was born on December 15, 1912.



A LEADING member of the accountancy profession, William Slimmings was president of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Scotland in 1969-70. He emerged in that organisation as something of a reformer — persuading his fellow members to support a scheme which would have resulted in a rationalisation of the various professional bodies. To his disappointment — and that of others — the scheme failed to go through.

William Kenneth MacLeod Slimmings was educated at Dunfermline High School, from where he went straight into articles, qualifying as a chartered accountant in 1935. He immediately joined the London office of the well-known firm of Thomas McLintock & Co, where he became a partner in 1946. He was senior partner from 1968 to 1978.

His main work centred on the flour-milling industry, in whose affairs he was involved for more than forty years. Here, as in his own profession, his main concern was with rationalisation — which meant in this case reduction of surplus capacity. He became the trusted confidant of most of the prominent figures of the industry until his final retirement from practice in 1982.

He also contributed much to the work of the Cement Makers' Federation, of which he was independent chairman from 1977 to 1980. He took on a number of assignments for the government, including serving as a joint liquidator for Rolls-Royce and taking part in a Board of Trade Inquiry into the affairs of Lonrho. He was appointed CBE in 1960 and knighted in 1966.

Very much a member of the stage army of the great and the good, he sat on numerous official and professional bodies — including the Accounting Standards Committee, the Crown Agents' Tribunal and the Review Board for Government Contracts. Although he practised for nearly fifty years in London, he never forgot his Scottish and Presbyterian origins, worshipping regularly at Crown Court Church in Covent Garden. His main hobby was his garden.

He is survived by his wife Lilian, whom he married in 1943, and by a son and a daughter.

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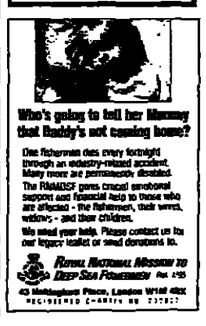
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MR. PERCY GRAINGER

ENGLISH FOLK MUSIC

The death was announced in New York yesterday of Mr. Percy Grainger. He was aged 78.

In the early nineteen hundreds a young Australian of a singularly handsome countenance, surmounted by an aureole of straw gold hair, crashed into the solemnities of music in England. His art, his debonair manners, and his good tailoring made it impossible for Kensington to dub him a barbarian.

He had studied in Germany but his music did not sound as though he had. He was an intimate friend of Edward Grieg, and when he played Grieg's Piano Concerto it sounded like Grieg (it breathed the keen air of Norway) and not like a provincial product of the Leipzig School.

As a pianist, as composer, as juggler with folk songs of the Faroe Islands, Percy Grainger took everyone by surprise, and even Queen's Hall decided that a little surprise in a symphony concert might be a welcome change.

He was born near Melbourne: he had a protective mother who first taught him his music, then watched over his career, perhaps a little too assiduously for his own good. She travelled with him when he went to Germany to study with Kwast and Busoni. She presided over his entry into London society and helped him to become a darling of the gods.

For a few years he was everywhere. The Leeds Festival of 1907, when Grieg would have conducted his own concerto with Grainger as pianist had the composer not died just before it, was one of the pianist's triumphs. The Balfour Gardner concerts of 1912 were his greatest opportunity as composer. There he conducted his spirited folksong arrangements, his dance pieces, Irish reels, " Molly on the Shore, " and the like, and made everyone delight in their artful gaiety. He toured as a pianist about Europe, and pleased, not only by the brilliance of his playing but by the easy charm of his manner. He would take his audience into his confidence, tell them what he meant to play and why he wanted to play it.

His association with Grieg fired him with interest in national music and he threw himself with characteristic enthusiasm into the movement for collecting English folk song. The 1908 journal of the Folk Song Society contains his collection of English folk songs, including " Brigg Fair " which he brought to Delius's attention.

His setting of " Country Gardens " has made it one of the most frequently broadcast tunes of the B.B.C. From the financial proceeds of this, the most popular of his many popular settings, which include the " Londonderry Air " and " Shepherd's Hey " he generously subsidized more scholarly publications of folk songs.

In 1915 Percy Grainger, still accompanied by his mother, migrated to America. She died there. He later married Ella Viola Strom, a Swedish poetess, at a spectacular wedding ceremony in the Hollywood Bowl with music composed by himself for the occasion.

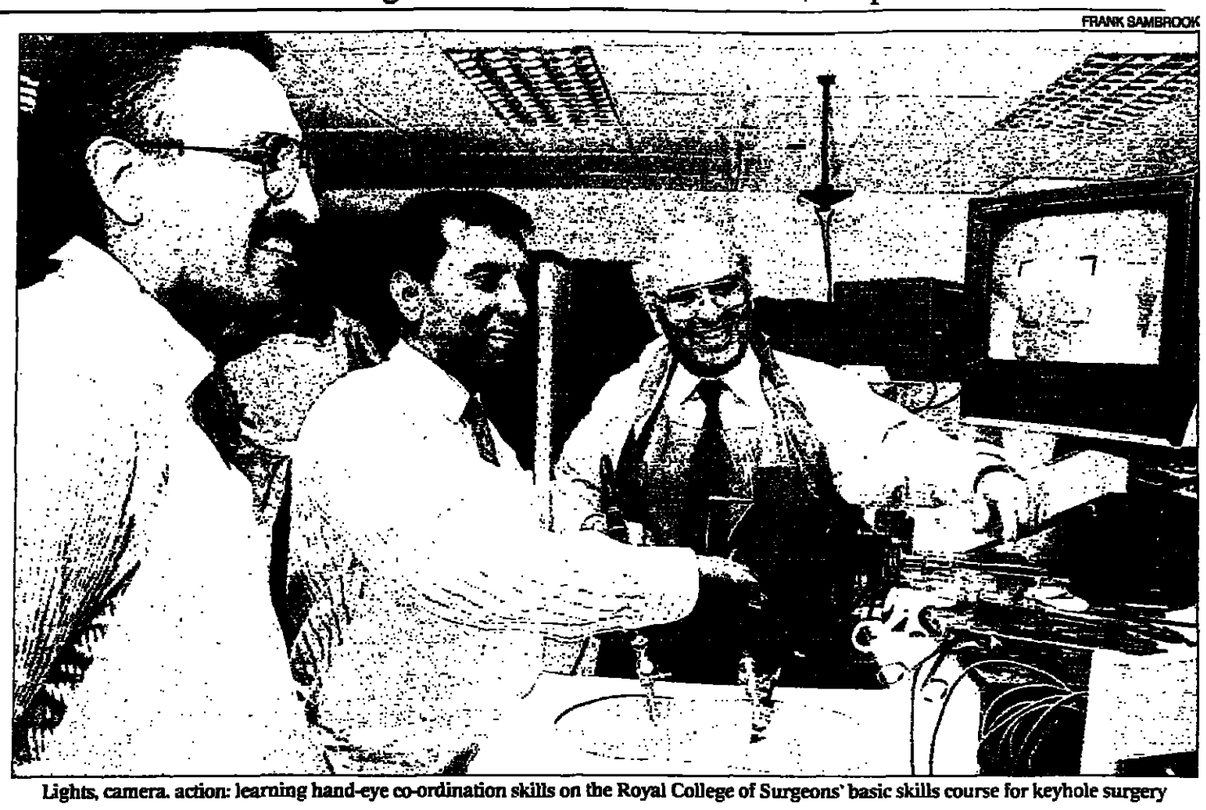
ON THIS DAY

February 21 1961

Percy Grainger died in New York aged 78. He spent more than half his life in the United States, two years of it, according to Grove's Dictionary of Music, *as a bandsman in the US Army.*

Jeremy Laurance on the forward-looking attitudes which should make patients feel secure

FRANK SAMBROOK



Lights, camera, action: learning hand-eye co-ordination skills on the Royal College of Surgeons' basic skills course for keyhole surgery

A cut above the rest of the world

Surgeons perform more than 3 million operations in Britain each year and most patients about to go under the knife never question the competence of the person wielding it. "Your life in their hands" is a phrase that has entered the language conveying a unique degree of confidence and trust.

In the past decade, that confidence has been severely tested as the practice of surgery has come under increasing scrutiny. Rising medical negligence claims, the establishment of the Confidential Inquiry into Perioperative Deaths (deaths within 30 days of surgery) and fresh demands for professional accountability have made the public more aware of the fallibility of surgeons.

Controversy over the new techniques of keyhole surgery, introduced in the late 1980s and known as minimal access therapy, has increased disquiet. The Royal College of Surgeons of England, guardian of surgical standards since 1843, is moving to dispel it. Under its president, Professor Sir Norman Browse, the most forward thinking among the profession's top brass, the college has introduced training programmes, set up the keyhole surgery training unit to be opened by the Health Secretary, Virginia Bottomley, today and switched its research effort to hospitals around Britain. It is pressing for controls on the introduction of surgical techniques and favours a new system for checking standards in hospitals.

"Our standards of surgery are as high as any in the world," Sir Norman says. "But our system of surgical training is undergoing fundamental change with new methods of teaching appearing at every level. Surgery itself is being transformed by dramatic scientific and technological advances. The college's role is assuming new importance."

Not much publicity has been given to the college's visits to each of the 4,000 surgical training posts in Britain at least once every five years. Junior posts are checked by one or two surgeons, appointed by the college, and senior posts by teams of three or four. Posts are rarely deregistered because hospitals are given six months to improve matters. "Nine times out of ten, the threat to withdraw approval produces the necessary response," Sir Norman says.

However, the college has no remit to monitor the quality of the service provided by a hospital, only the quality of the training. "We are very cautious about telling the NHS how to provide a service although we have our own ideas."

This may change because ministers are considering a scheme to accredit hospital departments. This would involve assessing their performance against agreed standards. Pilot projects are under way in the South Thames region. "It would be more positive and easier for the public to understand than league tables. It would involve going into hospitals and saying this is very good but that must be improved. We are talking to the Health Department but it would involve a lot of work," Sir Norman says.

The introduction of new surgical techniques is a second area of concern. The sudden emergence of keyhole surgery caught the college by surprise and its "wildfire" development caused alarm. Sir Norman contrasts it with the introduction of the heart lung machine, which was developed by engineers and doctors working together in the 1950s and was introduced over more than decade.

"Here we had a television camera using optical fibres that had developed outside medicine. Suddenly surgeons had plonked on their plates a highly sophisticated piece of equipment which they realised they could use and it was taken up very rapidly. What should have happened is that we should have spotted it early and subjected it to trials before the NHS started buying the kit to do it. But it is very hard to spot these things when they are still on the horizon."

Sir Norman says the college backs "100 per cent" the restrictions recently imposed on keyhole surgery by ministers requiring that it be performed only as part of controlled research trials. Discussions are now under way on establishing a register of new procedures that have been evaluated and graduated in terms of their efficacy.

"We are in the heyday of open surgery. That is going to reduce. A few years ago no one considered treating a big stone in the kidney other than by a large incision. Now, through a small incision, it can be pulverised and sucked out. But we have to check it is as effective. The problem is that as soon as the public hear something being done in a new way they want it done that way.

"People say we are always doing ineffective things. But it depends what you mean. A patient undergoing surgery to correct a leaking aortic aneurysm (swelling caused by a weakness in the wall of the main blood vessel) has a one in five chance. That is not very effective but it is all we have got. Without surgery, the patient will die. Health economists expect everything to be 80-90 per cent effective and it just isn't," he says.

All the royal medical colleges are learning that they will have to raise their public profiles. Like the others, the College of Surgeons receives no government funding and relies on charity. Of its £3 million annual income, a third comes from member subscriptions, a third from donations and endowments and a third from legacies. Sir Norman says: "We have not been good at telling people what we want to do. That must change."

Trainee surgeons get on to the fast track

A serious bottleneck that has slowed basic training is to be removed

Training to become a surgeon can be a protracted business. It is not uncommon for doctors who want to do the most popular specialities, such as general surgery, to be in their late thirties before they get their Certificate of Accreditation, which marks the end of their training and entitles them to apply for the post of consultant. But important reforms, which will start to be introduced within the next 12 months, should change that.

After the recommendations of a working group chaired by Dr Kenneth Calman, the Government's Chief Medical Officer, the process is being streamlined. Surgical training is split into two parts: basic surgical training, during which would-be surgeons learn the rudiments of their craft, and the period known in the profession as higher specialist training, when they specialise in their chosen field which could be anything from orthopaedics to cardiothoracic surgery.

Basic training is to be cut from the present three or four years to two, and an important bottleneck which has slowed down progress in higher specialist training is being removed.

Under the old system, the trainee surgeon having done his three or four years basic training then had to pass through two grades in higher specialist training — registrar and senior registrar. It was this that caused much of the hold-ups, Professor Sir Jack Hardcastle, chairman of the college's education board, says.

"In some specialities, it was almost impossible to move from registrar to senior registrar unless you got a higher degree such as a mastership or a PhD or a Doctorate of Medicine, which meant you would probably have to do two or three years in a research appointment." Under the new system, the registrar and senior registrar grades have been combined into a unified "specialist registrar" grade. Now, once he gets that appointment, the surgeon will be able to go right to the end of his training without the need to apply for another job.

To coincide with the reforms, the college is making a big change to the rules governing its coveted fellowship, the FRCS. Traditionally, the FRCS has been awarded at the end of basic surgical training. That meant that, despite its distinguished sound, the surgeon actually got his fellowship — the college's highest diploma — when, in professional terms he was still a mere stripling, less than half way through his training.

That was increasingly seen as illogical. Professor Hardcastle says, so a new system is being introduced in which the first diploma (equivalent to the old FRCS) will be a new award, the MRCS (Member of the Royal College of Surgeons). The FRCS itself will now be upgraded and awarded after the trainee takes his specialist exams about four years into higher specialist training. After a short



Trainees surgeons: new award

finishing off period of between one and two years, the surgeon will then get a CCST (Certificate of Completion of Specialist Training) equivalent to the present Certificate of Accreditation.

The college is not just changing the structure of training. It is changing the way it delivers that training. One of the first results was the introduction, in February 1994, of STEP (the Surgeons in Training Education Programme), a distance learning course geared to getting trainees through the clinical surgery part of their basic training. "They may be in Lincoln, Worksop or Birmingham but they will have access to the same help and support even in small hospitals. The programme is based on the Open University format, in a modular form so trainees can link it to whatever job they're doing," Professor Hardcastle says.

MALCOLM BROWN

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We are proud of the College's outstanding record of achievement, but also conscious of its responsibility for the future. Remarkable advances will change the face of surgery as we move into the next century. The Royal College of Surgeons will be at the forefront of these changes by influencing healthcare policy, developing and applying new methods to train and educate our surgeons throughout their careers and promoting research into many aspects of disease.

But, as an independent body relying on legacies and donations to fulfil its role, the College needs help. If the quality of your life, or that of someone close to you, has been improved by surgery, you will appreciate the importance of supporting our vital work. We hope you will do so by making a donation or arranging a legacy that will safeguard the interests of patients today and tomorrow.

To make a donation or to find out more about how your legacy can help the College, please write to us at the address below.

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Patients give their views

Constant evaluation helps surgeons to maintain a high level of care

THE ROYAL College has long recognised the importance of audit as an essential element of surgical practice and has pioneered the way surgery is delivered to patients. Mr H. Brendon Devlin is Director of the Surgical Audit Unit set up in 1990 in the wake of the Government White Paper *Working for Patients*. "The purpose of audit is to ensure that surgeons maintain the standard of day to day surgical care and ensure good outcomes for patients," he says. "Surgery must be safe. It must have few complications and the patient must feel fully satisfied at the end of the episode."

Acknowledged as the world leader in this field, the unit has undertaken a range of projects in collaboration with the surgical specialist associations. Many of these projects are investigations of patient access to, and the process and outcome of, treatment for specific clinical conditions. Research for each is undertaken by a registrar or a senior registrar seconded from the NHS and studies are overseen by steering groups which report to the Clinical Audit and Quality Assurance Committee.



Pre-surgery: patient care will be assessed

Recent projects include: an investigation of 14,000 gastroscopies in two regions, a national prostatectomy study taking account of 5,000 cases, a project on the management of colorectal carcinoma, and a two-year investigation of the repair of cleft lip and palate. An investigation of the management of ankle fractures, based on more than 1,000 cases in 15 hospitals is due to be completed by the end of the year. Liver transplant units across Britain have agreed to participate in an audit of outcome, to help clarify instances in which a liver transplant is indicated and the difficult area where transplantation is contra-indicated by likely poor outcome and potential loss of a scarce organ.

In 1992, as part of the patient satisfaction project, in-depth interviews with more than 900 patients who had undergone general surgery highlighted flaws in communication. As a result, a two-stage questionnaire (one at the time of surgery and one eight weeks later) was devised with the aim of examining a patient's experiences of, and their satisfaction with, the surgical care they receive. Dr Philip Meredith, senior researcher on the project, hopes to develop this as a service that hospitals will provide as an independent measure of the surgical care they provide.

As part of the same project, a series of comprehensive, full-colour publications aims to help patients to become better informed and involved in their care. Booklets on total hip replacement, surgery on the prostrate and hernia repair have proved popular in the hospitals where they have been used. Linda Lamont, director of the Patients Association, describes the booklets as informative and well-illustrated. "They have been much improved by taking on board patients comments. The earlier such views are taken into account the more useful the product will be."

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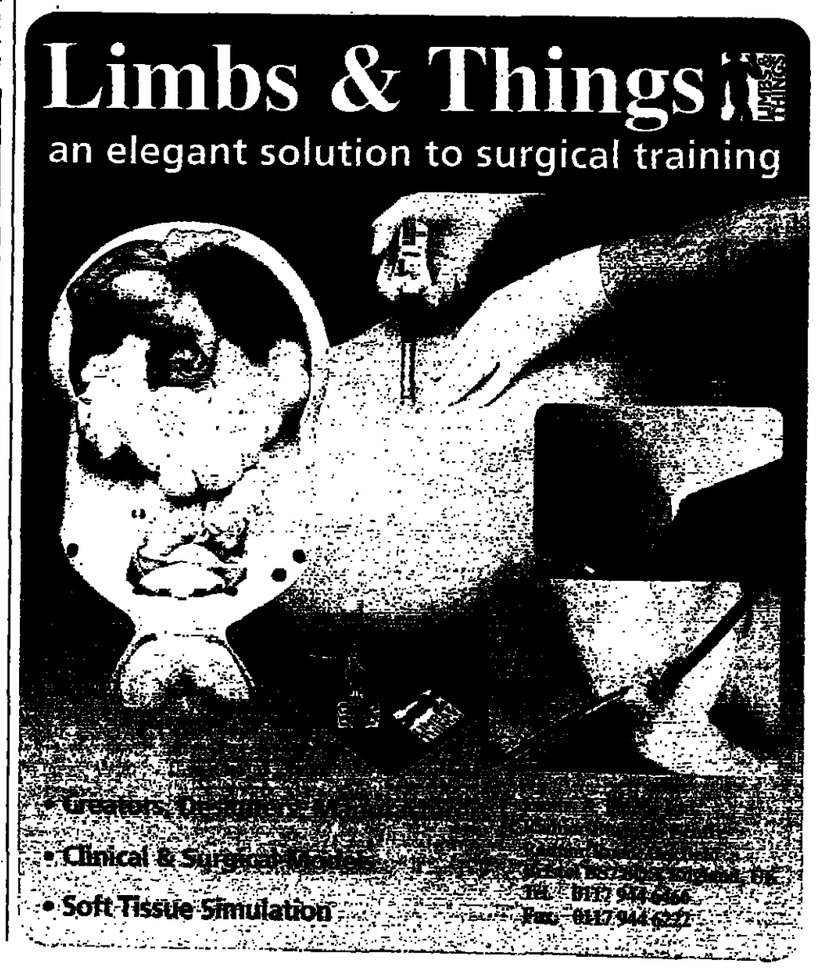
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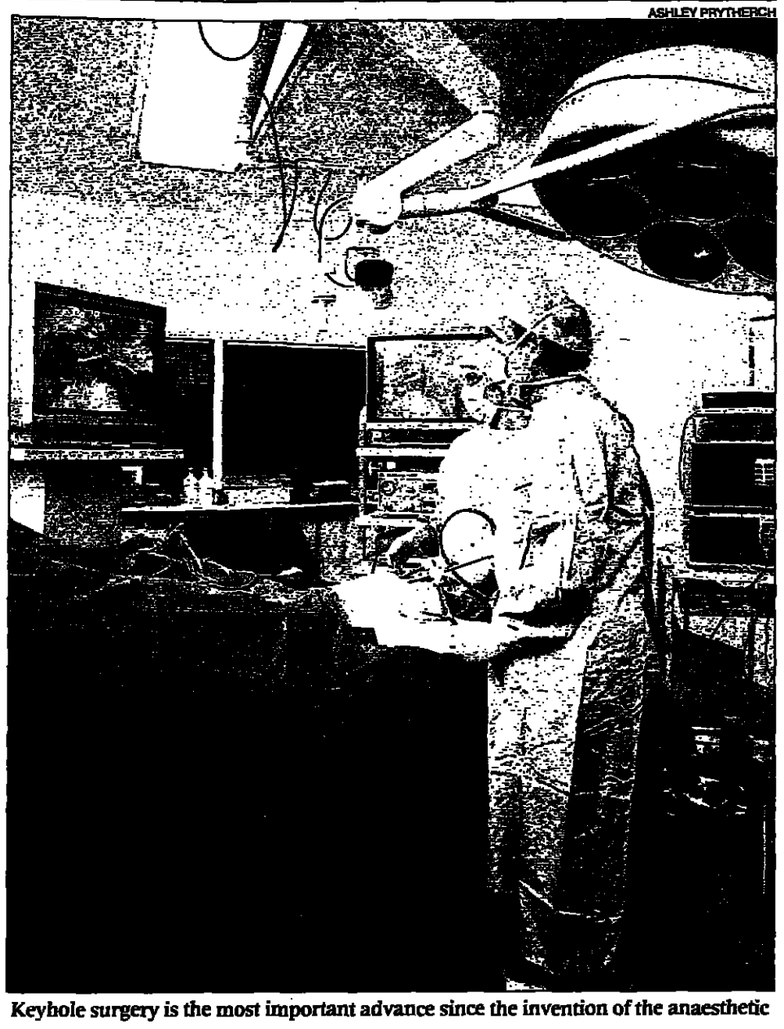
By 1999, less than 30 per cent of patients undergoing surgery will have to stay in hospital overnight

Virginia Bottomley, the Health Secretary, will today be invited to peel a grape using foot-long chopsticks manipulated by the aid of a television monitor. The occasion for this unique insight into the problems facing modern-day surgeons is the official opening of the Royal College of Surgeons' Minimal Access Therapy Training Unit (MATTU).

Funded by the Wolfson Foundation and the Department of Health, the £1.9-million unit is designed to provide practical experience for both young surgeons and senior colleagues wishing to update their skills and keep abreast of new techniques. Mrs Bottomley will observe a training course in action, where, at a number of work stations equipped with TV monitors and latex tummies, students can hone the special skills required of the keyhole surgeon. Mrs Bottomley will also observe a live broadcast from an operating theatre, a feature made available through collaboration with the Royal London Hospital and the Royal Surrey Hospital.

Minimal access therapy has been hailed as the most important advance in medical science since the invention of the anaesthetic. It enables surgeons to operate through tiny incisions using devices to which miniature cameras are attached. It is commonly used in operations for the gall bladder, appendix, chest, kidney stones and prostate. For the patient it means less pain and therefore fewer drugs, smaller scars, drastically reduced recovery time and shorter hospital stays.

It makes sense financially, the average keyhole procedure costing several hundred pounds as opposed to several thousands for conventional surgery. At present it is employed for 20 per cent of all operations, but Mrs Bottomley has predicted that by the turn of the century less than 30 per cent of patients undergoing surgery will have to stay in hospital overnight.


ASHLEY PRYTHERCH

Keyhole surgery is the most important advance since the invention of the anaesthetic

Demand by 1990 for the procedure threatened to outstrip the supply of competent surgeons and it was apparent that an extensive retraining programme was needed for Britain's 4,000 surgeons. Media claims that standards were far from satisfactory fuelled public disquiet. In response, the Government and the Royal College announced plans for the setting up of three specialist training centres at a cost of £4 million.

In 1994, the Royal College's unit embarked on its first pilot course. Since then an ambitious schedule has been planned to meet the needs of surgeons at every stage of their career. This year, 400 students will study at basic, intermediate and advanced levels in fields ranging from general surgery, orthopaedic and sinus surgery to plastic surgery, notably brow lifting and face lifting.

Paul Thodiyil, registrar at the Queen Elizabeth II hospital in Welwyn Garden City, was one of the first students to enroll at the unit. "Instead of relying on manual dexterity and direct vision, surgeons have to acquire skills likened to playing computer games, moving the instruments by watching the image on a television screen linked to the fibre-optic camera," he says.

"The whole essence is getting hand-eye co-ordination right with the difficulty of manipulating long instruments in three dimension, with only two dimensional vision."

Before the course, Mr Thodiyil had a grasp of the principles learnt by observing and acting as assistant and cameraman to a consultant. "The course has two main benefits, the tremendous advantage of being surrounded by experts in a very focused environment, and of course simulation gives you the room to make mistakes," he says.

Not all students will be surgeons. "One of the main attractions of minimal access surgery is that it tends to be short-stay," Chris Fowler, a MATTU tutor, says. "If you admit patients on the day of surgery and discharge them very soon afterwards this puts heavy responsibility on those assessing beforehand and caring for afterwards, so there needs to be a programme teaching those involved throughout the process. Last year we made a start by running a course for theatre teams — nurses and operating department technicians."

> "The Health Secretary will be invited to peel a grape with foot-long chopsticks"

At present, none of the keyhole surgery courses is compulsory. "In the past, the College worked in two ways — by setting standards and measuring them," Mr Fowler says. "How people prepared for their examinations was a matter for them to decide. With the planned abbreviation of a surgeon's training from 15 to eight years, that will change. We are presently developing a course in the fundamental safety aspects of minimal access therapy which will be a component of the proposed two-year compulsory basic training for surgeons."

The biggest challenge ahead is funding. "Hospitals and trusts are cash-limited, so many students pay for themselves." Mr Fowler says. "But if you want the least likelihood of things going wrong people must have the best training. As I see it, it is prudent risk management."

Trainees can now take a paid year off for research

Time to get some answers

THE ROYAL College of Surgeons' approach to research has changed radically over the past two or three years. The emphasis has moved from funding teams of established scientists, working in its laboratories at its London headquarters, to providing financial support to enable young surgeons-in-training to do a period of research.

Until the early 1990s, the college's research effort focused primarily on six in-house teams covering anatomy, biochemistry, biophysics, dental sciences, pathology and pharmacology. Several of the teams had included or been led by distinguished scientists, such as pharmacologist Sir John Vane who won the 1982 Nobel Prize for Medicine. But there was a growing feeling among members of the college's governing council that perhaps the college's labs were no longer the ideal environment for researchers. They were too cut off from clinical surgery.

In future, it was suggested, the best research was probably going to be done in research laboratories located in hospitals where there was a constant interplay between researchers and clinicians.

"It was excellent research," says Martyn Coomer, secretary of the RCS's Training and Research Boards, "but some of it wasn't directly linked to surgery and it became more and more expensive to keep these departments going."

The college bit the bullet in 1992 and began to wind down its in-house research. Several of the departments were relocated to other institutions with which the RCS now shares the research costs. The dental sciences team has gone to King's College School of Medicine and Dentistry and biophysics to the Institute of Child Health. Other departments, such as biochemistry and pathology, have been closed down as their heads retired.

The money saved, together with fresh funds raised by appeal, is being used for a Surgical Research Fellowships scheme. The 35,000 fellowships enable surgeons-in-training to take a year out for research. They cover the researcher's salary, some of the research materials, and the cost of attending scientific conferences.


An "off-service" trainee

The fact that the money is enough to give the researchers a salary at NHS rates is crucial. "It's highly desirable that people such as these should do 'off-service' research," Mr Coomer says, "but they don't get paid while they're doing it so they have to look for soft money. Some of them have been doing locums or working in private hospitals at weekends."

That has bred some resentment, Mr Coomer says. Aspiring consultants realise that the research will improve their job prospects but feel hard done by when they have to pay for it all themselves. But need for financial support is not in itself enough. The research project must be of a high standard. "It's got to further the field they're involved in." Mr Coomer says the intention is that the research fellowships should breed surgeons who are questioning in their approach.

"We're very conscious that surgeons-in-training need to be exposed to current research methodology and ideas. They need to be able to challenge things, not just take them all at face value. Surgery is changing so rapidly that they need to query everything that comes along." The college's council hopes that the fellowships may also encourage surgeons-in-training to pursue research or academic surgery as a career. One of the problems about academic surgery, Mr Coomer says, is that the financial rewards are not as great as those elsewhere.

Any money that the academic surgeon makes from private practice goes into his department's coffers. So, if bright doctors are to be lured into academic surgery in universities and teaching hospitals, it will not be by the prospect of material reward but by the intrinsic interest of the subject itself. "We hope there'll be one or two of them that we support each year who will get such a taste for research that they'll want to pursue it further," Mr Coomer says.

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Vatman ends loophole on bad-debt refunds

BY RODNEY HOBSON

A LOOPHOLE in VAT rules will be closed when the Finance Act becomes law next month. Customs and Excise has sent a warning to companies registered for VAT with the latest batch of payment forms.

The loophole arose when the VAT Act 1994, designed to consolidate previous legislation in one Act, came into force last September. Previous legislation had allowed companies to reclaim VAT on bad debts arising after April 1, 1989. The consolidated Act omitted to set a starting date, raising the possibility of reclaiming VAT on earlier bad debts.

The latest VAT notes issued by Customs and Excise make clear that the loophole will be closed in legislation bringing the Chancellor's November 1994 Budget into effect. Customs says: "The Chancellor's intention is to correct any shortcomings in the Act and ensure the continuing application of the pre-consolidation legislation by clarifying beyond any doubt that relief from VAT on bad debts under the scheme introduced in 1990 is available only on supplies made on or after April 1, 1989."

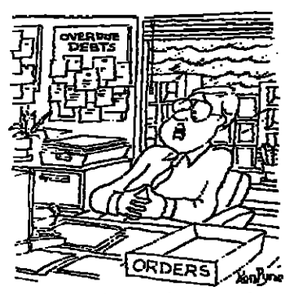
The leaflet says the measure will be backdated to last September.

A spokesman said Customs and Excise did not accept that the consolidation measure let companies reclaim VAT on earlier bad debt. He added: "We took legal advice and were told that the legislation did not create a loophole. However, we were also advised that people would try to claim that there was a gap in the legislation and so we are making the position clear."

No penalties or interest will be imposed on companies that have taken advantage of the loophole, provided they repay the VAT by August 1 this year.

Customs and Excise says: "If you have made any claims that are rendered invalid by this measure you are advised to make an adjustment on your next VAT return or make a voluntary declaration as soon as possible."

☐ Revised fuel scale charges for vehicles in mixed business and private use take effect in the first VAT accounting period starting after April 5.



"I've weathered the recession — now I'm waiting for the sunny periods"

Trained in a hard school

BY SALLY WATTS

WHEN Tim Oddie began his business, making induction heating equipment for use in producing car parts, he worked almost round the clock, doing two jobs at once. He was 25 and a one-man band. During the day, he called on firms to seek out orders and at night he did the manufacturing.

His first clients were small companies in the North West around Dukinfield, Greater Manchester, the town where in 1988 he leased a start-up unit. Mr Oddie's sales line was to offer better workmanship at a better price: that meant his profits were modest, as he had to undercut his competitors to attract new clients, but it also helped to establish him.

His qualifications were a City and Guilds Certificate in mechanical engineering, obtained while serving his apprenticeship with a local firm. Then he ran a repair workshop for induction heating equipment, later manufacturing goods for sale.

When he decided to take a chance and work for himself, he sold the house he was buying for collateral, moved back with his parents and started up with £6,000 — the proceeds of the house and his savings. Dukinfield Induction Heating Services Ltd was in business, manufacturing equipment to harden crank shafts, camshafts and constant velocity joints.

The £6,000 was spent on machinery, tools and small quantities of copper and brass. After about six months he was doing well enough to take on his first employee, a fellow coppersmith from the company he originally worked for.

One by one, Mr Oddie has added to his workforce. Six years on, there are six, including an office worker. His first year's turnover was £27,000, his latest was £150,000, with a projected 10 per cent increase in the current year.

More than 300 companies have been on his order books. Ford and Austin-Rover were early clients, and others include Jaguar, Mercedes-Benz, Massey-Ferguson and GKN. Business is worldwide — Finland, Germany, South Africa, India, Iran and Pakistan.

In 1991, the company moved to larger premises at nearby Ashton-under-Lyne, bought on a short term mortgage. Mr Oddie's main role now is developing the business, though he still does a little coppersmithing. In 1988 he won Tameside Council's Young People In Business Award of £750 as well as winning Livewire's North-West regional contest.

He says: "I never thought I'd get this far. It's been hard work, especially at first, and there are peaks and troughs, but it's nice to think we've done it all ourselves. We only borrowed £5,000 from the bank, for machinery, and it's been repaid long since."

HOWARD BARLOW



Tim Oddie with an inductor: "It's been hard work but it's nice to think we've done it all ourselves."

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More than 300 of Britain's most original and successful small businesses will be exhibiting at the Country Living Fair at the Business Design Centre, Islington, north London, from February 28 to March 5. The exhibition has attracted 40,000 visitors a year since its launch in 1992. For advance tickets, £7 for adults and £6.50 for children aged 5-14, call 0171-288 6888. Tickets for adults on the door will be £9.50.

☐ Collyer-Bristow, a firm of solicitors in Holborn, London, has produced a free checklist for homeworkers giving help on issues such as self-employment, use of the home, health and safety regulations, insurance and tax. Copies are available from Homeworkers Checklist, Collyer-Bristow, 4 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4DF.

☐ Michael Heseltine, the President of the Board of Trade, will open the National Furniture Forum '95 at Queen Elizabeth Conference Centre, London, on March 1. Attendance costs £150 plus value-added tax. Details may be obtained from Cherrill Scheer on 0923 242769.

☐ The Spring National Franchise Exhibition, organised by Blenheim Events 1 and sponsored by the British Franchise Association, will be held at Olympia, London, from March 24 to 26. More than 100 exhibitors will be looking to recruit new franchisees.

EDITED BY DEREK HARRIS

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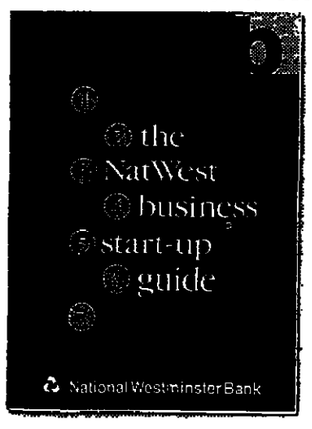
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L P Hartley, The Go-Between. Read by Edward Petherbridge. A man looks back on his boyhood, recalling one summer at the turn of the century. ABC 566 £14.95 — *8 Cassettes.*

Francis Fyfield, Question Of Guilt. Read by Rula Lenska. Eileen Cartwright becomes obsessed with her solicitor and hires a Polish porter to murder his wife. ABC 602 £14.95 — 8 Cassettes.

Francis Fyfield, Trial By Fire. Read by Rula Lenska. A crime of passion in a sleepy Essex village. ABC 722 — £14.95 — 8 Cassettes.

James Herriot, Let Sleeping Vets Lie. ABC 1005 £14.95 — 8 Cassettes.

Joanna Trollope, The Men And The Girls. Read by Eleanor Bron. Two men live with an attractive woman 25 years their junior. ABC 041S £14.95 — 8 Cassettes.

Evelyn Waugh, Brideshead Revisited. Read by Jeremy Irons. ABC 350 £16.95 — 10 Cassettes.

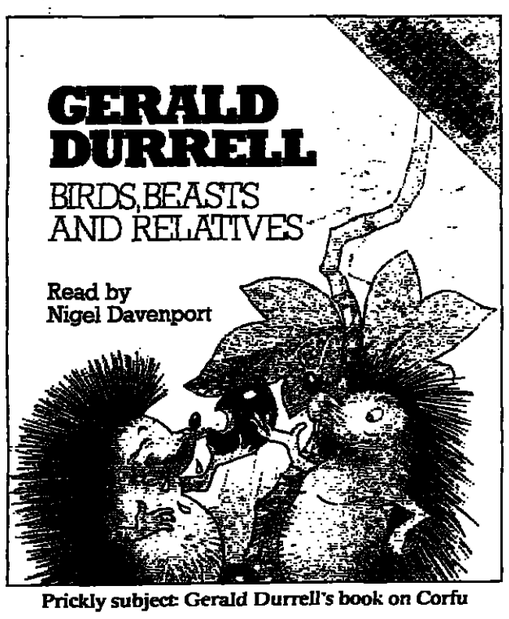
Mary Wesley. An Imaginative Experience. Read by Samuel West. A Man sees the tragedy in the face of a fellow traveller. ABC 1067 £13.95 — 6 Cassettes.

Catherine Cookson, The Golden Straw. Read by Susan Jameson. ABC 1003 £18.95 — 14 Cassettes.

Colin Dexter, Morse's Greatest Mystery. Read by Terrence Hardiman. A dazzling collection of Inspector Morse stories. ABC 1051 £13.95 6 Cassettes

Frederick Forsyth, The Day of The Jackal. Read by David Rintoul. The Jackal stalks General de Gaulle. ABC 328 £16.95 — 10 Cassettes.

Bernard Cornwell, Sharp's Eagle. Read by William Gaminara. Richard Sharp leads his men into the bloodiest battle of the war. ABC 429 £14.95 — 8 Cassettes.



Prickly subject: Gerald Durrell's book on Corfu

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Jeffrey Archer, Twelve Red Herrings. Read by David Rintoul. A cornucopia which confirms Archer as a master short story teller. ABC 1061 — £14.95 — 8 Cassettes.

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William Boyd, Brazzaville Beach. Read by Harriet Walter. Living on an African beach, Dr Hope Clearwater reflects on the violent and tragic events that brought her there. ABC 043S — £16.95 — 10 Cassettes.

R.F. Delderfield, To Serve Them All My Days — Vol I: Late Spring. Read by Christian Rodska. David Powlett-Jones returns from the Western Front to begin life as a school master. ABC 712 — £14.95 — 8 Cassettes.

R.F. Delderfield, To Serve Them All My Days — Vol 2: The Headmaster. Read by Christian Rodska. A schoolmaster has to face up to the wartime deaths of formr pupils. ABC 713 — £17.95 — 12 Cassettes.

Daphne Du Maurier, Jamaica Inn. Read by Tony Britton. Mary Yellon soon learns of her uncle's strange trade at the lonely inn on Bodmin Moor. ABC 762 — £14.95 — 8 Cassettes.

Roddy Doyle, Paddy Clarke Ha Ha Ha. Read by Aidan Gillen. It is 1968 and Paddy Clarke, ten, comes face to face with the realities of the adult world. ABC 1068 — £14.95 — 8 Cassettes.

Tom Sharpe. Blott On The Landscape. Read by David Suchet. Blott the sinister gardener watches, listens and *waits*. ABC 886 — £14.95 — 8 Cassettes.

P.G. Wodehouse. The Inimitable Jeeves. Read by Jonathan Cecil. ABC 061C — £13.95 — 6 Cassettes.

P.G. Wodehouse. Right Ho, Jeeves. Read by Jonathan Cecil. ABC 414 — £13.95 — 6 Cassettes.

Sue Townsend, The Queen And I. Read by Angela Thorne. The People's Republican Party orders the Royal Family out of Buckingham Palace and into a council estate. ABC 589 — £14.95 — 8 Cassettes.

Paul Brickhill, Reach For The Sky. Read by Robert Hardy. The story of Douglas Bader, who overcame the loss of both legs in a flying accident to become a renowned fighter pilot. ABC 633 — £17.95 — 12 Cassettes.

Gerald Durrell, Birds, Beasts And Relatives. Read by Nigel Davenport. Gerald Durrell aged ten in Corfu where he met intoxicated hedgehogs and a menagerie of eccentrics. ABC 166 — £13.95 — 6 Cassettes.

John Mortimer. Rumpole On Trial. Read by Timothy West. Defender of Faith, Horace *Rumpole finds himself* before the disciplinary tribunal of the Bar Council. ABC 972 — £14.95 — 8 Cassettes.

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E M Forster. A Passage To India. Read by Sam Dastor. In India to marry a narrow-minded magistrate, Adela Quested divides the community at Chandrapore. ABC 074S — £16.95 — 10 Cassettes.

Graham Greene, The Power And The Glory. Read by Andrew Sachs. Revolution and death in Mexico, with a whisky priest. ABC 014S — £14.95 — 8 Cassettes.

E M Forster. Howards End. Read by Edward Petherbridge. Two sisters confront their contrasting passions. ABC 044S — £16.95 — 10 Cassettes.

John Fowles, The French Lieutenant's Woman. Read by Paul Shelley. Charles Smithson's moral values are challenged by an independent young woman. ABC 061S — £17.95 — 12 Cassettes.

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Joseph Heller, Catch 22. Read by Peter Whitman. American airman face the paradox that they have to be insane to escape flying, but cannot be mad if they want to do so. ABC 020S — £18.95 — 14 Cassettes.

Brian Moore. The Colour Of Blood. Read by Derek Jacobi. Cardinal Bem had a vital message to deliver, but an attempt was made on his life. ABC 343 — £10.95 — 4 Cassettes.

Henry James, What Maisie Knew. Read by Maureen OBrien. Maisie is an innocent six-year-old. torn between divorced *parents*. ABC 003S — £14.95 — 8 Cassettes.

Richard Llewellyn, How Green Was My Valley. Read by Philip Madoc. The classic story of childhood and youth in a South Wales valley. ABC 650 — £17.95 — 12 Cassettes.

Kazuo Ishiguro, The Remains Of The Day. Read by Nigel Hawthorne. It is 1956 and an ageing butler has just *embarked on a journey deep* into his past. ABC 046S — £13.95 — 6 Cassettes.

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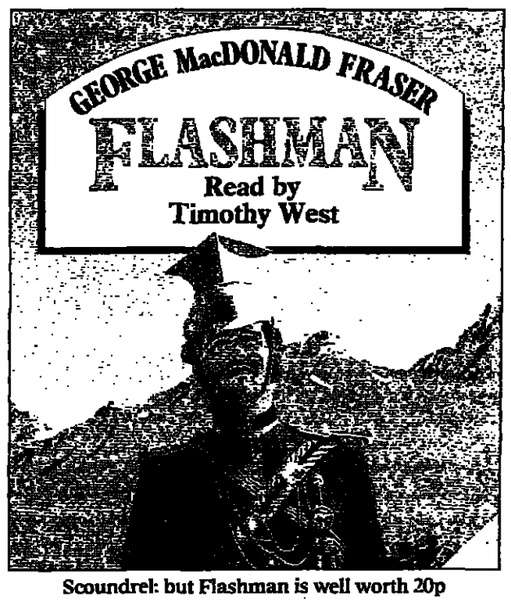
Terry Waite, Taken On Trust. Read by the author. ABC 945 — £17.95 — 12 Cassettes.

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Bill Bryson, The Lost Continent. Read by William Roberts. Contemporary America through the eyes of an expatriate. ABC 804 — £14.95 — 8 Cassettes.

Mark Shand, Travels On My Elephant. Read by Paul Shelley. A 600-mile journey by elephant ABC 756 — £14.95 — *8 Cassettes.*

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Scoundrel: but Flashman is well worth 20p

Peter Mayle. Toujours Provence. Read by Andrew Sachs. Sequel to A Year in Provence. ABC 839 — £13.95 — 6 Cassettes.

Alexander Kent, Midshipman Bolitho. Read by Michael Jayston. Period naval adventure. ABC 703 — £13.95 — 6 Cassettes.

Maureen Lipman, Something To Fall Back On. Read by the author. Lipman on sex, lunching with royalty and soaking her bra in cold tea. ABC 354 — £13.95 — 6 Cassettes.

Dirk Bogarde, A Short Walk From Harrods. Read by the author. Bogarde tells of his return to London after 19 years in Provence. ABC 977 — £14.95 — 8 Cassettes.

James Herriot. If Only They Could Talk. Read by Christopher Timothy. Herriot, a newly qualified vet, arrives in Darrowby. ABC 909 — £14.95 — 8 Cassettes.

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Barbara Vine. A Fatal Inversion. Read by William Gaminara. ABC 413 — £14.95 — 8 Cassettes.

Antonia Fraser, Cool Repentance. Read by Joanna Lumley. Christabel Herrick investigates a murder. ABC 064C — £13.95 — 6 Cassettes.

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P D James. Original Sin. Read by Mchael Jayston. Adam Dalgliesh hunts the killer of the chairman of Peverll Press. ABC 1104 — £17.95 — 12 Cassettes.

Ngaio Marsh, Artists In Crime. Read by James Saxon. Det Insp Alleyn is in love with murder suspect Agatha Troy. ABC 821 — £14.95 — *8* Cassettes.

Dorothy L. Sayers. Lord Peter Views The Body. Read by Ian Carmichael. A selection of Lord Peter Wimsey stories. ABC 109 — £13.95 — 6 Cassettes.

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P.G. Wodehouse, Thank You, Jeeves. Read by Jonathan Cecil. ABC 933 £13.95 - 6 Cassettes.

Ellis Peters. Saint Peter's Fair. Read by Stephen Thorne. Brother Cadfael investigates a murder. ABC 550 £14.95 - 8 Cassettes.

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THE TIMES

TOKEN 1

NEWS

Major plans appeal to Ulster voters

■ The Government was preparing a direct appeal to the people of Northern Ireland to give the London-Dublin proposals for the future of the Province a chance of progress.

A special Cabinet meeting has been summoned by John Major today to launch the most perilous stage so far in the search for lasting peace. The Irish Cabinet will meet in Dublin to give final approval to the plans .....Page 1

Civil court shake-up proposed

■ A shake-up of the civil courts system which would see an end to the county courts and the creation of a new single streamlined court for civil disputes is expected to be proposed in a report to the Lord Chancellor by Lord Woolf, the law lord ..... Page 1

Surgery controls

Pioneering techniques that will revolutionise surgery and the treatment of diseases are to be controlled by the Government to prevent patients being harmed by inexperienced doctors ..... Page 1

Faithful few

Madonna attracted only a handful of fans as she prepared for pop music's Brit Awards in London. The band Blur won four of the awards ..... Page 1

Shopping list

Two men acting for a High Court sheriff left Harrods with a list of luxuries amounting to £123,000 that they would like to acquire unless the store settles a disputed legal bill ..... Page 1

Currency pledge

Britain will continue to take part constructively in the technical preparations for a single European currency, Kenneth Clarke said ..... Page 2

Rugby sex bias case

The English Rugby Football Union has been accused in court of treating women members as second-class citizens, by a female official campaigning to join its national committee ..... Page 5

PC cleared of rape

A police constable who was acquitted of raping a female colleague said that he was astonished that the case had reached court ..... Page 3

Clinton Moscow deal

President Clinton is to propose a new security deal with Russia to allay Moscow's concerns over Nato's plans to offer alliance membership to countries of the former Warsaw Pact ..... Page 9

Cancer campaign

A new guide to breast cancer services, intended to end the "lottery of care" that has given Britain the world's highest mortality from the disease, will be sent to all GPs ..... Page 6

German strike call

IG Metall, Europe's largest industrial trade union, has balloted members in preparation for an all-out strike in Germany's car factories, shipyards and steel foundries ..... Page 9

PLO crisis meeting

An emergency meeting of PLO leaders is being held against a background of eroding support for the 1993 peace accord among Palestinians ..... Page 11

Police chief in court

A police commander in the apartheid regime pleaded not guilty to 121 charges ranging from murder to arms offences as his trial opened in Pretoria ..... Page 10

Afghan peace threat

The UN peace plan for Afghanistan is likely to collapse within a day or two unless President Rabbani honours a pledge to give up office ..... Page 10

Islanders seek vote on home rule

■ Islanders in Orkney and Shetland are calling for a referendum on independence from the rest of Scotland. They are likely to be joined by representatives from the Western Isles. Many Orcadians feel that they have more in common with Norway than the Scottish mainland — the islands were once a Norse earldom ..... Page 7

JACQUES COLLET/EPA



Brigitte Bardot joined protesters against live animal transport who picketed a meeting of EU farm ministers in Brussels yesterday. Page 2

BUSINESS

Building societies: Andrew Longhurst, the chief executive of the Cheltenham & Gloucester Building Society, has condemned the law that forced the society to exclude thousands of members from a bonus payout .....Page 23

Banking: British banks want the Bank of England to try to delay the introduction of new European legislation on the way they measure exposure to risk .....Page 23

Economy: Bank and building society lending to the private sector has accelerated .....Page 23

Markets: The *FT-SE 100 index fell* 25.6 points to close at 3018.6. Sterling's trade-weighted index fell from 87.1 to 86.9 after a rise from $1.5765 to $1.5840 but a fall from DM2.3466 to DM2.3332 ....Page 26

SPORT

Cricket: The Pakistan board of control has promised to investigate claims about bribery after meeting the Chief Executive of the International Cricket Council ..... Page 44

Football: A Uefa delegation inspecting grounds in England for the 1996 European championship reinforced the view that the tournament will go ahead as planned ..... Page 44

Rugby union: Wales and Australia are the only confirmed bidders to host the 1999 World Cup. France have missed the deadline and England and Argentina have withdrawn ..... Page 44

Snooker: The emergence of an outstanding talent was confirmed by the victory of John Higgins in the open at Bournemouth ..... Page 44

ARTS

Artist at work: Compared with the convulsive energy to come, the first room of Willem de Kooning's Tate retrospective is astonishingly still: Richard Cork on the last great abstract expressionist .....Page 37

Mozart reheated: Welsh National Opera's spring season was to have featured a new production of *The Marriage of Figaro*. But cuts have meant another revival .....Page 38

Birthday present: Sir Michael Tippett's orchestra piece *The Rose Lake*, premiered as part of his 90th birthday celebrations, is an exquisite new score .....Page 39

Berlin winners: Bertrand Tavernier walks off with the top prize at the Berlin Film Festival for *L'Appât*, his chilling portrait of juvenile crime .....Page 39

FEATURES

Marquis of Bath: Joanna Pitman meets the hippy peer who has been trying since his twenties to transcend the limitations imposed by his heritage ..... Page 12

It's nature, innit? Nigella Lawson on football hooligans and environmentalists ..... Page 12

BODY AND MIND

Tension headaches: A group of American doctors are claiming that they know what causes those pains, reports Nigel Hawkes ..... Page 13

LAW

Refer back: An inaccurate job reference may give you grounds to take legal action against a former employer ..... Page 31

THE PAPERS

Already facing a full fight card on Capitol Hill, the President has been pushed by his foreign policy team for a high-stakes battle with Senator Jesse Helms and the Republicans over control and future levels of a broad category of foreign assistance programmes

— The Washington Post

The Senate Budget Committee staff has circulated a proposal to terminate American contributions to multilateral development banks. It is a callous and shortsighted idea that should be disowned by the committee *— The New York Times*

WEEKEND

Preview: In Britain, Yardies are black gangs who represent a kind of new Mafia. *Network First* goes to Jamaica to explore their roots (ITV 10.40pm). **Preview:** Matthew Bond on *Blood and Peaches*: "derivative, over-scripted and still very, very good" .....Page 43

BUSINESS

The German model

A victory for the unions in their current confrontation should be even more frightening to all those politicians and businessmen across Europe who speak glibly of converging towards the German model without thinking what that might mean .....Page 15

Through the keyhole

The demands upon individual surgeons are growing accordingly. The new committee should make this cultural change in the medical profession the basis of its work .....Page 15

She met Van Gogh

There is a permanence about personal judgments at the small-town roots of society. Dynasties and wars pass. But Jeanne Calment still remembers Van Gogh as a rude outsider ..... Page 15

BERNARD LEVIN

In the last issue of *Index on Censorship*, no fewer than 93 countries were named as denying rights to their suffering victims, men and women. And which is the latest addition? .....Page 14

CONOR CRUISE O'BRIEN

The new language may stress the democratic process, but for the nationalists the unit of democratic choice necessarily remains the island of Ireland as a whole Page 14

PETER RIDDELL

The consensus of most MPs, civil servants and commentators is that the Tories are doomed to lose the next election ..... Page 8

OBITUARIES

Harold Robinson, rocket scientist and space programme administrator; **Patrick Martin-Smith**, former intelligence officer; **Sir Oliver Barnett**, Judge Advocate General of the Armed Forces ..... Page 17

LETTERS

More concerns about single currency: immigration fears unallayed ..... Page 15



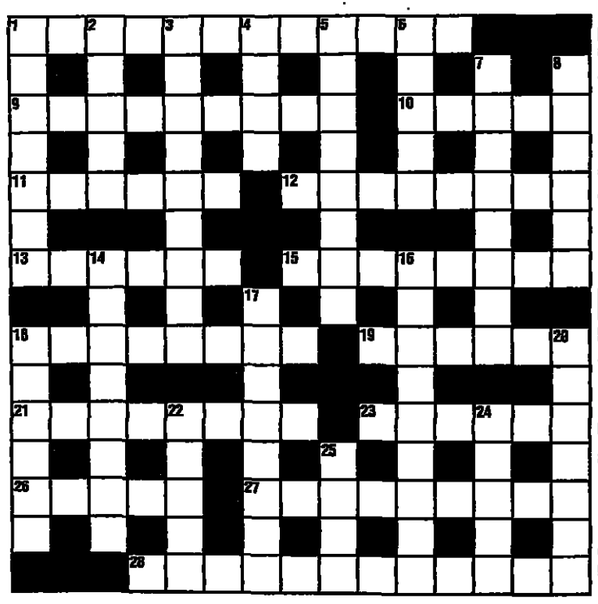
TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

■ THE DRESS BOOK
Conran, Joseph and Muir: Iain R. Webb on designer clothes by mail order

■ RADIO WAVES
Brenda Maddox sees the BBC stir tribal passions at Cardiff Arms Park

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 19,784



ACROSS

1 Briefly observe raucous cries of birds of North Europe (12).
9 Signal to leave miserable cell (4,5).
10 The maxim of an international banker (5).
11 First violinist announced these German songs (6).
12 Analyse tricks? Yes (8).
13 Eastern prince in town to see Roman emperor (6).
15 Pack to take a passage — get one free? (4,4).
18 *Terse report of gunshot victim's* condition? (8).
19 Slag taking drink about noon (6).
21 Here the ice is broken — who'll be round to play? (4-4).
23 Sprinkles bactericide initially to get weeds out (6).
26 He'll grow lethal to mice, it appears (5).
27 Play around and be indulgent, capturing child's heart (9).
28 Fashionable person is an idiot — he's Arab, perhaps (7-5).

DOWN

1 *Ship* to mark position: it's not part of main action (3-4).
2 Hazy in the middle, river is blue (5).
3 Deplore catching cold in repeated storms (9).
4 Record a tiny piece of music (4).
5 Wine priest lifted to lips (8).
6 Scots town expels the Spanish from prayer (5).
7 Some such thing needed for wedding *(not one's own)* (8).
8 Practice of lecherous old huntsman? (6).
14 Comprehensive college? (3,5).
16 The solution is to conceal one's defects, without conceding anything (9).
17 It's a small world (8).
18 Graduate, jolly uncouth chap (6).
20 Lack of warmth is a limitation (7).
22 Inaudible? That was heartbreak for Elvis (5).
24 Duck! Soldiers are killed when they stand up (5).
25 It could be right to take part (4).

Solution to Puzzle No 19,783

B	A	N	J	O		S	O	V	E	R	E	I	G	N
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Times Two Crossword, page 44

TIMES WEATHERCALL

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Kent,Surrey,Sussex	702
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Berks,Bucks,Oxon	706
Beds,Herts & Essex	707
Norfolk,Suffolk,Cambs	708
West Mid & Sth Glam & Gwent	709
Shrops,Hereds & Worcs	710
Central Midlands	711
East Midlands	712
Lincs & Humberside	713
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Gwynedd & Clwyd	715
N W England	716
W & S Yorks & Dales	717
N E England	718
Cumbria & Lake District	719
S W Scotland	720
W Central Scotland	721
Edin S Fife/Lothian & Borders	722
E Central Scotland	723
Grampian & E Highlands	724
N W Scotland	725
Caithness,Orkney & Shetland	726
N Ireland	727

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London & SE traffic, roadworks	
Area within M25	731
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M25 London Orbital only.	736
National traffic and roadworks	
National motorways	737
West Country	738
Wales	739
Midlands	740
East Anglia	741
North-west England	742
North-east England	743
Scotland	744
Northern Ireland	745

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HIGHEST & LOWEST

Sunday: Highest day temp: Teignmouth, Devon, and St Mary's, Scilly Isles, 13C (55F); lowest day max: Aviemore and Tulloch Bridge, Highland, 4C (39F); highest rainfall: Eskdalemuir 0.75in; highest sunshine: Newcastle upon Tyne 8.2hr.

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FORECAST

☐ **General:** rain will soon clear the southeast, leaving England and Wales with broken cloud and showers. These may be heavy for a time, giving sleet or snow, especially on northern hills, but will mostly die out later. Blustery winds will make it feel chilly. Scotland and Northern Ireland will have wintry showers, prolonged at times, particularly in the west. Strong winds will lead to blizzard conditions over the mountains and make it feel decidedly cold.

☐ **London, SE England, E Anglia, Channel Isles:** early rain then sunny intervals and some sharp showers. Wind SW or W moderate locally fresh. Max 9C (48F).

☐ **Central S England, E Midlands, W Midlands, SW England, S Wales, Central N:** showers, wintry on hills, dying out later. Wind W or SW moderate or fresh. Max 8C (46F).

☐ **E England, NE England, Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Moray Firth:** broken cloud, wintry showers, snow on hills. Wind SW mostly fresh or strong. Max 7C (45F).

☐ **N Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man, SW Scotland:** occasional showers, perhaps prolonged later. Snow on hills. Wind SW fresh or strong. Max 7C (45F).

☐ **Glasgow, Central Highlands, Argyll, NW Scotland, N Ireland:** wintry showers, prolonged at times. Blizzards on hills. Wind SW strong to gale. Max 6C (43F).

☐ **NE Scotland, Orkney, Shetland:** broken cloud, wintry showers. Wind SW fresh becoming strong to gale. Max 5C (41F).

☐ **Outlook:** windy, with rain or showers. Some snow, especially in the north.

AROUND BRITAIN

24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

	Sun hrs	Rain in	C	Max F	
Aberdeen	x				
Anglesey	2.1	0.13	9	48	sh
Aspatria	2.3	0.51	8	46	b
Aviemore	0.9	0.38	4	39	sl
Belfast	3.7	0.20	8	46	b
Birmingham	1.8	0.06	9	48	r
Bognor R	-	0.47	11	52	r
Bournem'th	-	0.44	12	54	r
Bristol	0.1	0.41	10	50	r
Buxton	3.7	0.43	7	45	s
Cardiff	-	0.30	9	48	r
Clacton	-	0.07	9	48	r
Colwyn Bay	4.0	0.30	10	50	r
Cromer	5.4	0.11	10	50	s
Doncaster	x				
Dunbar	x				
Eastbourne	-	0.41	11	52	r
Edinburgh	x				
Eskdalemuir	0.1	0.75	6	43	h
Exmouth	1.1	0.29	12	54	d
Falmouth	x	0.53	12	54	sh
Fishguard	0.1	0.27	9	48	r
Folkestone	-	0.34	10	50	r
Glasgow	2.3	0.66	8	46	sh
Guernsey	-	0.65	12	54	r
Hastings	-	0.38	10	50	r
Hayling I.	-	0.37	11	52	r
Herne Bay	-	0.31	11	52	r
Hove	-	0.22	11	52	d
Hunstanton	3.8	0.04	6	43	s
Ilfracombe	x				
Isle of Man	4.9	0.07	9	48	b
Jersey	-	0.33	12	54	r
Kinloss	4.3	0.06	7	45	sh
Leeds	5.5	0.13	10	50	s
Lerwick	1.4	0.32	6	43	h
Leuchars	5.3	0.20	7	45	sh
Littlehmptn	-	0.52	11	52	r
Liverpool	3.9	0.12	9	48	s
London	-	0.18	9	48	r
Lowestoft	4.3	0.09	9	48	sh
Manchester	3.3	0.17	9	48	r
Margate	-	0.32	11	52	r
Minehead	x				
Morecambe	3.4	0.59	9	48	b
Newcastle	8.2	0.05	9	48	s
Newquay	0.8	0.30	12	54	c
Norwich	4.3	0.13	10	50	r
Nottingham	x				
Oxford	0.1	0.04	9	48	c
Penzance	0.6	0.36	12	54	sh
Plymouth	0.3	0.18	11	52	r
Poole	-	0.48	12	54	r
Prestatyn	x	0.08	10	50	c
Ross-o-wye	0.4	0.21	9	48	c
Salcombe	x				
Sandown	-	0.55	12	54	r
Saunton Snd	0.6	x	11	52	c
Scarboro'	6.1	0.03	7	45	s
Scilly Isles	1.4	0.24	12	54	b
Shanklin	-	0.68	11	52	r
Shrewsbury	0.3	0.20	10	50	r
Skegness	x				
Southport	4.6	0.17	9	48	s
Southsea	x				
Stornoway	2.8	0.43	6	43	h
Swanage	-	0.43	11	52	sh
Teignmouth	0.8	0.39	13	55	r
Tenby	-	0.46	10	50	r
Tiree	2.3	0.40	7	45	h
Torquay	0.1	0.54	12	54	sh
Tynemouth	x				
Ventnor	-	0.52	11	52	r
West-s-mare	x				
Weymouth	0.6	0.28	12	54	r

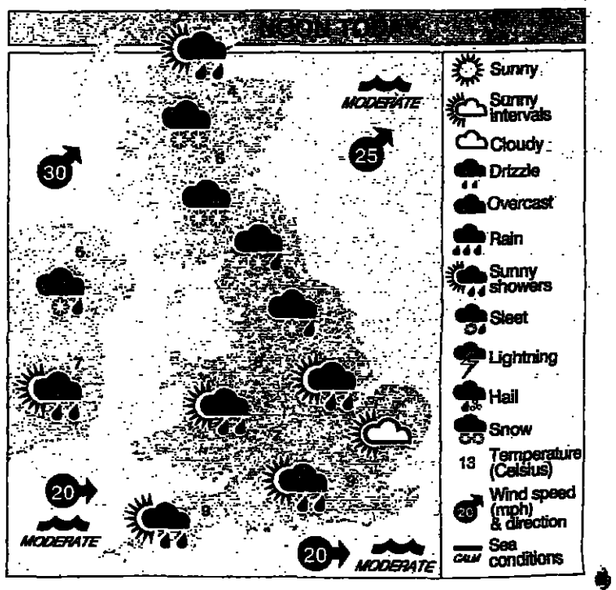
These are Tuesday's figures

ABROAD

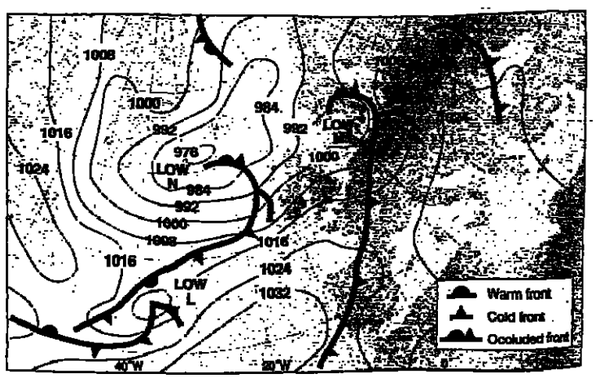
Ajaccio	15	59	s	Corfu	15	59	s	Malaga	18	64	s
Akrotiri	17	63	f	Dublin	7	45	r	Malta	15	59	f
Alex'dria	19	66	s	Dubrovnik	12	54	s	Malt'me	19	66	c
Algiers	18	64	c	Faro	17	63	s	Miami	28	82	s
Amst'dm	9	48	f	Florence	10	50	f	Milan	13	55	s
Athens	13	55	f	Frankfurt	10	50	r	Montreal	4	39	f
Bahrain	20	68	s	Funchal	18	64	c	Moscow	3	37	s
Bangkok	33	91	s	Geneva	13	55	f	Munich	12	54	c
Barcelona	15	59	s	Gibraltar	16	61	f	Nairobi	27	81	s
Beirut	17	63	f	Helsinki	2	36	c	Naples	14	57	f
BELFAST	5	41	f	Hong K	17	63	f	N Delhi	21	70	s
Belgrade	12	54	s	Innsbruck	11	52	f	N York	11	52	f
Berlin	10	50	s	Istanbul	6	43	f	Nice	14	57	s
Biarritz	21	70	s	Jeddah	31	88	s	Oslo	0	32	f
Borde'x	17	63	s	Jo'burg	18	64	r	Paris	12	54	c
Brussels	11	52	f	L Palmas	21	70	s	Peking	7	45	s
Budapst	10	50	f	Le Tquet	11	52	f	Perth	36	97	s
B Aires	29	84	s	Lisbon	14	57	s	Prague	9	48	f
Cairo	19	66	f	Locarno	12	54	s	Reykjavik	2	36	f
Cape Tn	19	66	c	L Angels	27	81	s	Rhodes	16	61	f
Chicago	7	45	s	Luxembg	8	46	d	Rio de J	25	77	f
Ch'church	19	66	-	Luxor	26	79	s	Riyadh	20	68	s
Cologne	11	52	c	Madrid	16	61	s	Rome	13	55	s
C'phagn	2	36	sl	Majorca	15	59	s	Salzburg	10	50	c
S F'risco	11	52	fg
Santiago	25	77	s
S Paulo	19	66	r
Seoul	7	45	s
Sing'por	24	75	r
St'kholm	5	41	f
Strasb'rg	11	52	c
Sydney	21	70	c
Tangier	19	66	s
Tel Aviv	18	64	s
Tenerife	21	70	s
Tokyo	11	52	c
Toronto	7	45	s
Tunis	16	61	f
Valencia	17	63	s
Vanc'ver	10	50	f
Venice	9	48	fg
Vienna	13	55	f
Warsaw	9	48	c
Wash'ton	11	52	s
Wel'gton	20	66	c
Zurich	10	50	c

Temperatures at midday local time. x = not available

MIDLANDS TO



Changes to the chart below from noon: low N will drift east with little change. Low M will continue east, later filling. Low L will run northeast and deepen later



TIDE TIMES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	5:17	6.86	5:53	6.61	Leith	6:27	5.14	6:50	5.16
Aberdeen	5:10	3.98	5:29	4.08	Liverpool	2:42	9.00	3:00	8.93
Avonmouth	10:51	12.30	11:12	11.80	Lowestoft	0:52	2.52	1:10	2.21
Belfast	2:27	3.23	3:00	3.44	Margate	3:19	4.89	3:47	4.42
Cardiff	10:38	11.35	11:03	10.82	Milford Haven	9:55	6.53	10:20	6.24
Devonport	9:30	5.07	9:52	4.90	Newquay	8:51	5.44	9:12	5.08
Dover	2:21	8.80	2:46	8.21	Oban	9:08	3.54	9:28	3.35
Dublin	3:09	3.84	3:42	3.94	Penzance	8:19	5.17	8:42	4.94
Falmouth	8:40	4.98	9:03	4.87	Portland	10:18	1.78	10:42	1.66
Glasgow	4.43	4.29	4:57	4.62	Portsmouth	2:48	4.55	3:10	4.39
Harwich	3:12	3.88	3:42	3.68	Shoreham	2:34	6.04	2:58	5.85
Holyhead	1.46	5.19	2:10	5.19	Southampton	2:11	4.45	2:35	4.32
Hull	9:57	7.00	10:16	7.18	Swansea	10:02	8.86	10:28	8.62
Ilfracombe	9:38	8.70	10:00	8.38	Tees	7:34	4.87	7:49	4.96
King's Lynn	10:05	6.43	10:30	6.48	Wilton-on-Nze	3:14	4.14	3:46	3.92

Crown copyright reserved. All tide times are GMT

HOURS OF DARKNESS

Sun rises: 7.04 am
Sun sets: 5.26 pm
Moon sets 9.31 am
Moon rises -
Last quarter tomorrow

London 5.26 pm to 7.02 am
Bristol 5.36 pm to 6.11 am
Edinburgh 5.29 pm to 7.23 am
Manchester 5.30 pm to 7.14 am
Penzance 5.50 pm to 7.21 am

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هكذا من الأصل



LAW 31-36

A muddy bird haven sinks under development



ARTS 37-39

London salutes a master of modern American painting



SPORT 40-44

Higgins takes his cue from wise man of snooker

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TELEVISION AND RADIO
Pages 42, 43

THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook — TUESDAY FEBRUARY 21 1995



MARTIN REDDALL

Andrew Longhurst, chief executive of the C&G, who yesterday outlined the future of the building society under Lloyds Bank's umbrella

C&G chief hits at law over bonus blow

BY ROBERT MILLER

ANDREW LONGHURST, the chief executive of the Cheltenham & Gloucester Building Society, yesterday condemned the law that forced it to exclude thousands of its members from a bonus payout as an ass.

Mr Longhurst, speaking at the launch of the key ransfer document on the £1.8 billion takeover bid for the society by Lloyds Bank, was referring to the Building Societies Act 1986.

In an interpretation of the Act last summer, a High Court judge ruled that it was illegal to proceed with the original bonus payout to C&G members.

This ruling excluded 375,000 mortgage borrowers and certain other categories of investors, such as those who had been with the society for less than two years as at the end of December 1994. C&G investors who do qualify for bonuses will each receive a fixed £500 plus about 13 per cent of the balances in their accounts. This could lead to a maximum of £13,500 for accounts with balances of £100,000.

Mr Longhurst yesterday outlined the future of C&G under the Lloyds' umbrella while the bank itself issued a statement promising that its new subsidiary would operate with "substantial autonomy". Lloyds also said that there were no plans for branch closures or staff redundancies at the bank or C&G.

The C&G has been under intense pressure from C&G Alternatives, an action group, to explain what other options the society had considered to the bid by Lloyds. Mr Longhurst said that C&G had conducted a thorough two-year review on its future.

Among its options were an Abbey National style flotation or a merger with another society. If it remained in its present form, he said, the C&G would suffer from a weakness in distribution and reduced opportunities for profitable growth in the UK mortgage market.

The acquisition route had been chosen because "it provided a premium above the value achieved by flotation". If the takeover goes ahead, the C&G will become the sole mortgage arm of Lloyds.

C&G members will have to vote for or against the proposed Lloyds deal by March 26 by post or on March 31 if they attend the special meeting in London. An extra meeting that the society has been forced to call by the dissatisfied C&G investors and borrowers to debate the takeover and to present alternative proposals may not be held before the voting date.

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FT-SE 100	3018.6	(–25.6)
Yield	4.34%	
FT-SE A All share	1494.58	(–11.22)
Nikkei	17956.48	(–64.03)
New York:		
Dow Jones	Closed	
S&P Composite	—	

US RATE

Federal Funds	unq	(6¼%)
Long Bond	—	(100¹⁵/₃₂)
Yield	—	(7.58%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth interbank	6¾	(6¾)
Liffe long gilt future (Mar)	101¹¹/₃₂	(101¹⁵/₃₂)

STERLING

New York:		
$	Closed	(1.5825)
London:		
$	1.5825	(1.5763)
DM	2.3334	(2.3435)
FFr	8.1220	(8.1570)
SFr	1.9720	(1.9844)
Yen	153.74	(153.66)
£ Index	86.9	(87.1)

DOLLAR

London:		
DM	Closed	(1.4810)
FFr	—	(5.1540)
SFr	—	(1.2525)
Yen	—	(97.30)
$ Index	61.4	(61.8)

Tokyo close Yen 96.12

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Apr)	$16.85	($17.15)

GOLD

London close	$379.35	($378.25)

Viyella buys

Coats Viyella has made a £65 million expansion move in the United States through the acquisition of Bace Manufacturing, the precision-engineering group. The company, which trades as SPM, makes high precision plastics for customers such as AT&T, Casio, Compaq, Ford, IBM and Sony. Page 25

Tobacco battle

The American tobacco lobby has hit back in the wake of a potentially crippling court ruling that clears the way for a class action on behalf of millions of aggrieved smokers. Page 24

Trafalgar recants on Northern price scare

BY GEORGE SIVELL
ASSISTANT BUSINESS EDITOR

SWISS Bank Corporation, adviser to Trafalgar House in the bitter £1.2 billion bid battle for Northern Electric, was forced by the City Takeover Panel yesterday to withdraw its assertion that Northern shares would fall because of the offer to pay special dividends to shareholders.

The withdrawal did nothing, however, to dampen market hopes that Trafalgar, having won approval from the Office of Fair Trading for the bid, would raise its offer to £12 a share. Northern shares strengthened 8p to £11.20 yesterday.

Trade unions were last night preparing to lobby Parliament, which was holding a debate on the hostile takeover. A joint union statement said: "It is in the best interests of customers and staff that the company remains independent."

Trafalgar was forced to say: "Swiss Bank Corporation would like to clarify that there is no empirical evidence to support the assertion contained in its earlier press release that there would be a matching fall in the market value of Northern Electric shares for every penny paid out in special dividends and issued as preference shares."

The company will post a new documnt to shareholders next week.

David Morris, chairman of Northern Electric, said: "Our proposals clearly demonstrate that Trafalgar House is not offering a proper price nor a premium for control."

Northern argues that, "before available tax credits, Trafalgar is placing a value of only £5.41 a share on its continuing investment in Northern".

Consumer optimism falls as firms borrow more

BY JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

CONSUMER confidence has fallen sharply and the housing market is displaying more signs of chronic weakness, even before April's higher taxes and the full effect of higher interest rates are felt.

But figures released yesterday, showing greater borrowing by companies, appeared to underline the increasing divergence between the ailing consumer sector and strong industrial activity. Not all companies, however, are sharing the fruits of strong export markets. The Federation of Small Businesses (FSB) reports today that just over 70 per cent of small firms believe Britain is still in recession.

Bernard Juby, of the FSB, said: "The economy cannot sustain further increases in interest rates. Such a move would further dampen consumer confidence, halt any expansion or investment plans and lead to depression in the high street in particular and a downturn for small businesses in general."

The latest Gallup poll of consumer confidence showed that confidence in the general economic outlook fell sharply in February. People have become more despondent about the outlook for inflation, and confidence about employment prospects has fallen back to levels last recorded in the second half of last year.

Of those questioned, 23 per cent expected the economic situation to improve while 37 per cent believed it would deteriorate. This negative balance of 14 per cent compares with a negative of 4 per cent in January. Apart from December's balance of minus 20 per cent, this was the lowest recording since last April.

Figures from the Building Societies Assocation showed that mortgage demand is tailing off. Net new commitments, which translate into actual loans after about six weeks, fell to £2.01 billion in January from £2.46 billion in December. Even more significant was the fall in the number of new commitments to 30,000, below the 32,000 recorded in January 1994.

Ian Shepherdson, of HSBC Markets, noted that January's figures reflected only two out of three base rate rises and only one out of two mortgage increases. February's rate rise is yet to be factored in, as well as any further mortgage rate increase in its wake. He said net new commitments are a good indicator of house prices and these, he expects, will end this year lower than in 1994.

Adrian Coles, BSA Director-General, said property sales are reported to have fallen by 16 per cent in January, compared with January 1994. He gave warning that borrowers are likely to remain cautious for the foreseeable future because of higher rates and a cut in mortgage tax relief and the clampdown on help for borrowers on income support due to come into force in April.

In contrast to the personal sector, the corporate sector is showing some signs of rising confidence. The British Bankers' Association said that bank lending rose by £2.91 billion in January, the biggest rise since March 1990, after a £1.33 billion rise in December. And M4 bank and building society lending, a major component of M4 money supply, rose to £4.6 billion from £3.9 billion in December, according to the Bank of England.

The BBA cautioned that the large rise in bank lending partly reflected a number of special factors. Firms appeared to have borrowed to pay bumper amounts of corporation tax. In addition, more than £500 million was lent to securities houses: the kind of borrowing that swings around from one month to the next because of firms' position in financial market trading.

Tim Sweeney, BBA Director-General, noted that lending to retailers and wholesalers had picked up but this probably reflected a squeeze on cash flow after a bad January. A rise in credit card borrowing, he said, reflected a consumer squeeze rather than greater confidence.

Pound suffers against mark

BY OUR ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE pound continued to slide against the German mark, dragging shares lower in London, and the dollar scraped higher, having come close to a record low against the yen in Far East trading.

Sterling continues to suffer against the German mark, which has been winning ground against a range of currencies. The pound remained under pressure partly because of political worries, exacerbated by the death of a Conservative MP in Scotland which will trigger a by-election, and by reports that the framework document on the future of Northern Ireland will be published this week.

The pound's trade-weighted index closed at 86.9, compared with 87.1 on Friday. It lost more than a pfennig against the mark. On the stock market, the FTSE-100 index closed lower amid concerns about politics, the pound and Friday's weakness on Wall Street. It lost 25.6 points to 3,018.6. The dollar drifted higher after falling to a 28-month low against the mark of DM1.4710 in Far East trading, prompting intervention in its support from the Bank of Japan. It closed at DM1.4750 in Europe, given respite by the closure of US markets for President's Day.

In the Far East, it fell to Y96.70, close to its all-time low of Y96.10, but recovered to close in Europe at about Y97.10. There was no sign of any other central banks intervening yesterday.

Banks seek delay of European law

BY PATRICIA TEHAN, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH banks are urging the Bank of England to attempt to delay the introduction of European legislation on the way the banks measure exposure to risk in their securities operations.

They say that the legislation, in the European Capital Adequacy Directive (CAD), which comes into force next January, will waste millions of pounds as it is likely to be superseded soon afterwards by new rules from the Basle committee of international banking supervisors.

Tim Sweeney, Director-General of the British Bankers' Association, said: "CAD provides rules for capital adequacy for trading activities for the first time," but the Basle committee is also looking at the issue as part of its wider task of measuring risk in the banking system. "The problem is that these two are not aligned in time," he said.

At present, banks in the UK do not have to differentiate between their banking and trading businesses. The CAD will standardise the capital requirements that banks and securities houses must hold in respect of the securities risks they take on. It does not recognise banks' internal models for measuring risk. They will have to hold capital in respect of market risk for the first time.

The Basle rules are still under discussion, but appear likely to permit banks to use their own computer models to measure and monitor risk. Its proposals will be published in April.

The BBA estimates that it will cost individual banks £4 million to £5 million each to implement CAD, and much of this work will be wasted when the Basle rules come in.

The BBA submitted its response to the Bank of England's consultative paper on capital adequacy last week. The Bank of England is due to make a decision on how it will implement the directive next month.

US travel agents sabotage greedy airlines

FROM SEAN MAC CARTHAIGH
IN NEW YORK

ANGRY travel agents across the United States are declaring war on six leading airlines in a dispute over ticket commissions. Already, smaller agents have begun a guerrilla campaign, booking hundreds of seats for non-existent passengers.

The battle lines were drawn by Delta Air Lines, which decided last week to place a cap on travel agents' commission. Instead of paying the usual 10 per cent of the price to the agent, the airline announced, it would pay no more than $25 a flight. Eager to save scarce cash, other carriers quickly followed suit.

But travel agents say that air-ticket commission is their biggest source of revenue, and expect the move to force down their incomes by as much as 50 per cent. Many smaller agents insist they will simply have to fire their employees and close. A class-action lawsuit has already been filed against the airlines, while two leading travel agencies, American Express and Carlson Wagonlit, say they will start charging service fees.

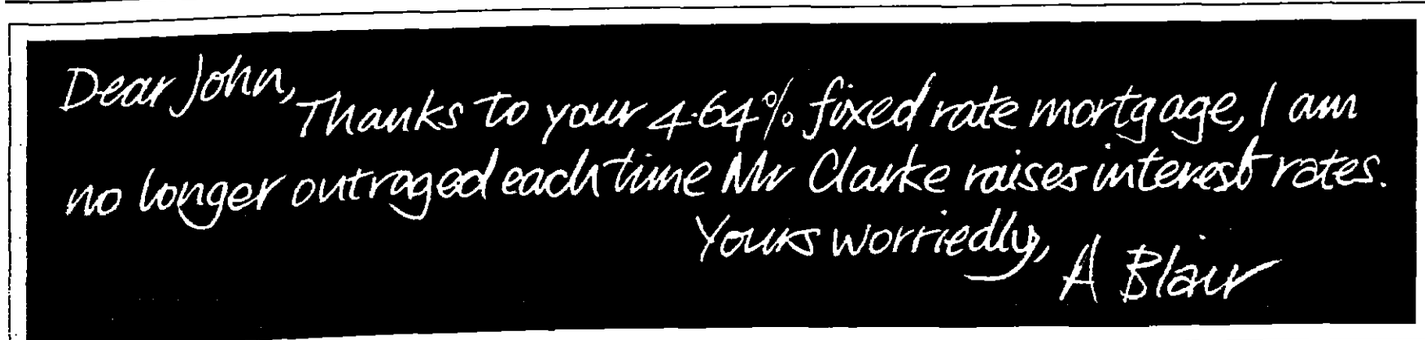
Some travel agents have started a hit-and-run war against the airlines, especially Delta. Last week, a Texan firm booked 125 bogus passengers on a $715 trip from Dallas to Atlanta. The travellers were all given the fictitious surname "Delta".

One travel agent explained: "Everybody's trying to do things that cost the airline more money, like ordering special meals or requesting extra wheelchairs."

There were also reports that travel agencies were calling airline reservation lines en masse, blocking customers from getting through.

Delta said it had already revoked the authority of several travel agencies to write its tickets, and might this week respond to the protests with legal writs charging fraud and breach of contract.





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Warning to Packer on media battle

FROM RACHEL BRIDGE IN SYDNEY

PAUL KEATING, the Australian Prime Minister, yesterday turned up the heat in the battle for Fairfax, Australia's oldest newspaper group, saying he would not let the national interest be "bulldozed" by Kerry Packer, the Australian media tycoon.

In a surprising personal attack, Mr Keating claimed that Mr Packer's proposals to build a national cable network through a joint venture with Optus, the telecommunications group, last year would have involved the transfer of A$7 billion (£3.25 billion) to A$8 billion from the public purse to Optus.

Mr Keating's attack came just days after Mr Packer raised his stake in the Fairfax Group — whose newspaper interests include *The Sydney Morning Herald* and *The Age* in Melbourne — from 15 to 17.6 per cent, taking him above the limit set by the Government in its cross-media ownership rules.

Mr Packer has declared publicly that he wants to wrest control of the group from Conrad Black, the Canadian media owner with interests including *The Daily Telegraph* and *The Sunday Telegraph* who currently owns 25 per cent of the group.

Mr Keating claimed yesterday that Mr Packer's decision to increase his stake in Fairfax, and so directly challenge the media ownership rules, had been motivated by the Government's rejection of his cable proposals.

He vowed to tighten the cross-media ownership laws in order to prevent Mr Packer from increasing his stake in Fairfax beyond 20 per cent.

Fairfax fight, page 27

PETER TRIEVNOR



Healthy plant growth: Peter Lewis, left, with George Burnett, managing director, announced a 101 per cent increase in Ashtead's profits

US tobacco lobby hits back at smoking ruling

BY JON ASHWORTH

THE American tobacco lobby has hit back in the wake of a potentially crippling court ruling that clears the way for a class action on behalf of millions of aggrieved smokers.

Philip Morris, one of several cigarette manufacturers affected, has retorted that last week's ruling in the so-called Castano case has created an unworkable situation. The company said in a statement: "In order for the alleged class in Castano to recover, millions of individual trials around the country will be necessary. In each such trial, the plaintiffs will have to prove on an individual basis injury in fact, causation, and reliance. And, in each such case, the industry's affirmative defences will be resolved by a jury."

A judge in New Orleans last week gave clearance for the Castano case to proceed as a class action. The suit is filed in the name of Dianne Castano, a housewife whose husband died after a lifetime of smoking. It also names all other "nicotine-dependent persons" in America and their heirs and survivors. It seeks punitive damages as well as compensation for economic loss, emotional distress and medical costs.

Companies named in the suit include Philip Morris, the biggest US cigarette manufacturer, with brands such as Marlboro, Benson & Hedges and Virginia Slims, and RJ Reynolds, maker of Winston, Salem and Camel. BAT Industries is exposed through its subsidiary, Brown & Williamson Tobacco, which follows Philip Morris in claiming separate trials would be necessary to determine individual claims. Brown & Williamson said: "Even if they prevail on these issues, the decision still requires every individual to pursue their claim as an individual before the question of any damages even makes it to a jury." The case now goes before the court of appeal.

No legal action against a tobacco company has ever resulted in the payment of damages. Chuck Wall, senior vice-president, litigation, at Philip Morris, said: "We are not going to be settling any cases. We never have and there is no reason for us to settle. The only people who will benefit are the plaintiffs' lawyers."

The latest challenge stems from a ruling in Washington, last August, when the Food and Drug Administration's drug abuse advisory committee unanimously concluded that nicotine was addictive. Previous claims have sought compensation for health damage. The FDA ruling sparked a wave of class actions brought by entire states as opposed to individuals, seeking compensation on grounds of nicotine addiction.

Mississippi, Minnesota, Florida and West Virginia have started actions that name all the tobacco companies as defendants, seeking punitive damages, compensation for future health costs and a ban on the promotion of cigarettes to minors. West Virginia alone spends $500 million a year treating health problems caused by smoking.

Investment pays off as Ashtead profit soars

BY PHILIP PANGALOS

ASHTEAD Group is reaping the rewards of timely investments in the past, as organic growth and acquisitions helped the plant and machinery rental company to more than double first-half profits.

Strong operational gearing and a wider customer base combined with improved margins to help pre-tax profits jump 101 per cent to £6.56 million in the six months to October 31, on turnover ahead 53 per cent to £31.9 million.

Peter Lewis, chairman, said: "The continued investment in plant, facilities and staff has enabled us to take advantage of improved trading conditions and the weakness of many competitors in the UK. We have broadened our product, customer and geographical ranges while still maintaining a strong balance sheet. We have continued to strengthen our position in our chosen markets, and look forward to reporting excellent results for the full year."

Capital expenditure more than doubled to £19.7 million (£8.6 million), but strong cash flow helped gearing remain at a lowly 4 per cent.

The company is optimistic on prospects and expects recent acquisitions to make a useful contribution as their margins are improved to match those of the group as a whole. Earnings increased 42 per cent to 15.5p (10.9p) a share. The interim dividend is 1.6p (1.3p), with payment due on April 6.

Tempus, page 26

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.25	2.09
Austria Sch	17.43	15.83
Belgium Fr	51.08	46.78
Canada $	2.332	2.172
Cyprus CypE	0.766	0.711
Denmark Kr	9.84	9.04
Finland Mkk	7.83	7.18
France Fr	8.57	7.92
Germany Dm	2.49	2.28
Greece Dr	388.00	363.00
Hong Kong $	12.88	11.88
Ireland Pt	1.06	0.98
Israel	5.2479	4.4979
Italy Lira	2635.00	2480.00
Japan Yen	167.50	151.50
Malta	0.610	0.555
Netherlds Gld	2.769	2.539
Norway Kr	10.86	10.06
Portugal Esc	253.50	235.00
S Africa Rd	ref.	5.35
Spain Pta	211.00	197.00
Sweden Kr	12.19	11.39
Switzerland Fr	2.11	1.93
Turkey Lira	refer	62925.0
USA $	1.680	1.550

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

Audit chief criticises regulators

BY ROBERT BRUCE

THE head of audit at Touche Ross has criticised regulators for not passing on suspicions of fraud to auditors.

Martin Scicluna has launched a campaign to change the law so that regulators would be compelled to tell auditors if they had any indication of fraudulent behaviour.

At present, he said, "even when regulators have suspicions that fraud has occurred or is currently being perpetrated they are so obsessed with secrecy and bound up with red tape they don't pass their suspicions on to the auditors".

The law was changed and a legal duty placed on auditors to report on suspicions of fraud in certain situations after the Bingham Report into the closure of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International.

Mr Scicluna said that the public interest would be better served by new laws that required regulators to inform auditors, without revealing their sources, if they suspected fraud or other regulatory offences.

He argued that the current system was unfair to auditors. "Often regulators hide behind the law," he said. "They claim that it would be contrary to the Official Secrets Act or similar legislation for them to pass on information received in pursuance of their duties to auditors.

"Auditors are kept in the dark and are unable to focus their attention on the very areas where regulators have concern, and, as a result, the effectiveness and efficiency of the audit as a tool in the fight against fraud suffers."

Mr Scicluna said that it was time "that society stops pussyfooting where fraud is concerned".

"It is time," he said, "that any alleged public interest need to keep regulators information secret is made subservient to the greater public interest needs to stop major fraud earlier and put the criminals behind bars."

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

UK national phone calls 'among cheapest'

THE price of local telephone calls made in Britain is the second highest in the industrialised world, but national calls are among the cheapest, a report by the International Telecommunications Users Group, says. The group examined phone tariffs in 24 countries. It said a three-minute local call in Britain costs 13p on average. France and Switzerland had the highest charges, at 15p each, for calls of the same duration. The cheapest European rates are in Greece (2p) and Portugal and Iceland (4p each).

British Telecom said the report was misleading because local-call areas in Britain generally cover larger areas than in other countries. The picture looks entirely different when national calls (within 300 kilometres) are taken into account. The cost of a three-minute national call in Britain, at 21p, is the third lowest among the countries surveyed. The cheapest rates were found in Iceland and Denmark and Japan, at £1.09, was the most expensive.

Creda to defend action

CREDA, the cooker group, said last night it would mount a rigorous defence of a legal action from New World, the cooker group recently sold by its management to the Italian Merloni Elettrodomestici company. Creda said: "We have considered New World's claim with solicitors who specialise in these matters. The advice received to date is that the claims are without foundation, even though New World has not yet been able to produce details of its copyright or unregistered design rights. The company will be rigorously defending this action." Neither New World nor its lawyers were available to comment further last night.

Coffee price surges

LONDON coffee prices surged 3.8 per cent to close at a four-week high on fears that Colombia's prolonged drought would continue. The March contract closed up $79 at $3,000. The key second-month May contract closed up $102 and above key resistance at a four-week high of $2,960 in a high volume of trades. Dealers said while it was still too early to quantify the effect of the drought on the coffee crop, the market was nervous. One dealer said that "any problem, such as the drought, now has a bigger effect on the market because it is already facing a deficit". Dealers said the market was also helped by the closure of New York for President's Day.

Regent Inns lifts payout

REGENT INNS, the pubs and restaurants operator, is raising its interim dividend by 29 per cent to 2.25p (1.75p) after reporting nearly doubled first-half profits. Organic growth and acquisitions helped pre-tax profits to surge 85 per cent to £1.9 million in the six months to December 31, up from £1.02 million. Turnover, boosted by acquisition, advanced 47 per cent to £10.5 million, while like-for-like sales increased 9 per cent. Regent now has 42 trading outlets with a further four under development and two under a management agreement. Earnings rose 73 per cent to 10.7p (6.2p) a share. Gearing stands at about 40 per cent.

Genetic foods go-ahead

THE Government is to approve three foods produced from genetically modified plants for sale in Britain. A tomato paste produced by Zeneca Group, a rapeseed oil produced by Plant Genetics Systems, and soyabean products made from Monsanto Co soya beans are expected to appear in shops by the end of the year. The foods are the first processed products made from genetically modified products to be approved by the Ministry of Agriculture's Advisory Committee on Novel Foods and Processes, although some yeasts are in use. The foods will not have to be specially labelled, but firms will be encouraged to provide information on a voluntary basis.

DTB to open longer

DEUTSCHE BOERSE, the German bourse, said that trading hours for share and index products on DTB, the German futures and options exchange, would be extended by 90 minutes from May 22. The hours would be 0800 to 1600 GMT, instead of 0830 to 1500 GMT currently. The bourse said that the extension of trading hours would especially benefit US and UK customers, particularly after the US Commodities Futures Trading Commission paved the way for more active marketing of DAX-futures in the US. On the electronic Ibis system, the 30 DAX shares may be traded from 0730 to 1600 GMT, the bourse said.

Cuba raises oil target

CUBA aims to produce at least 1.4 million tonnes of domestic crude oil in 1995, 100,000 tonnes more than in 1994. The target was set during a meeting of the Basic Industries Ministry. Of last year's domestic production, some 934,000 tonnes went for electricity production. Domestic oil accounted for 27 per cent of power production. Cuba's domestic crude is of a very heavy quality and with a high sulphur content. It is used mostly in electricity plants and cement manufacturing. Cuba's import capacity is sharply reduced amid economic crisis and the country has been seeking to increase output of domestic crude.

AT&T denies RWE link

AT&T, the largest American overseas phone carrier, said yesterday that reports of a possible alliance with RWE, the German utilities group, were "all rumour and speculation". It admitted, however, that it is looking for European partners in advance of the dismantling of the continent's telecoms monopolies in 1998. RWE has one of Germany's largest private fibre-optic networks and seems a natural partnership candidate. British Telecom and Cable and Wireless have formed joint ventures with German utilities in the hope of receiving operating licences to compete with state-owned Deutsche Telekom.

Peek in £4m GEC deal

PEEK, the multinational traffic and field data systems company, is paying £4 million for the bulk of GEC-Marconi Transport Systems (GMTS). The deal includes Bus Tracker, a system for tracking public buses, but does not include GMTS's Startrack advanced transport systems and automotive divisions. GMTS's customer service division will be integrated with Peek's British traffic activities, which include the installation and maintenance of traffic systems. Peek is due to announce its results for 1994 on March 21.

Saatchi rethink on remuneration

BY JON ASHWORTH

SHAREHOLDERS in Saatchi & Saatchi will meet next month to discuss ending the controversial remuneration arrangements that ultimately forced the departure of Maurice Saatchi.

The company, which intends to change its name to Cordiant, hopes to bring in a scheme under which pay and benefits for directors will vary according to how the business performs.

Mr Saatchi's support for a proposed share options package that could have netted him £5 million triggered the row that led to his resignation and brought Saatchi & Saatchi's remuneration arrangements under scrutiny.

An extraordinary general meeting has been called for March 13 to discuss the various proposals. Saatchi & Saatchi proposes that variable performance-related pay and incentives make up the bulk of executives' remuneration packages. Key executives will participate in a so-called "ownership scheme" — a phantom share scheme with rewards linked to business performance.

A small number of senior directors would be granted options subject to performance targets being met. The new performance option scheme would replace current executive share option arrangements.

The company dismissed claims that the scheme could provide Charles Scott, chief executive officer, with a bonus package of up to £3 million — based on a multiple of eight times his £365,000 salary. A spokesman said the rewards would depend on any number of variables, adding: "No options have been given to anyone at this stage."

Pennington, page 25

Plea for rate rise freeze

LEADERS of small business will today warn the government against raising interest rates again, as a survey shows that only a tiny minority of small firms believe economic recovery is under way (Philip Bassett writes).

In its latest bi-monthly survey, the Federation of Small Businesses suggests that most small firms are sceptical about claims of widespread improvement in the economy.

According to the survey of 300 small firms, only 2 per cent believe government claims that the economy is recovering even though 27 per cent say their own businesses are now expanding again.

Leaders of the federation say that a rise in rates now would further dampen consumer confidence and halt expansion plans.

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LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE No. 00722 OF 1995 CHANCERY DIVISION IN THE MATTER OF **HITACHI CONSUMER PRODUCTS (UK) LIMITED** AND IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Petition was on the 8th day of February 1995 presented to Her Majesty's High Court of Justice for the reduction of Share Capital of the above-named Company from £20,250,000 to £9,000,000.

AND NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the said Petition is directed to be heard before Mr Registrar Buckley at the Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London WC2A 2LL on the 1st day of March 1995.

ANY Creditor or Shareholder of the said Company desiring to oppose the making of an Order for the reduction of Share Capital should appear at the time of hearing in person or by Counsel for that purpose.

A copy of the said Petition will be furnished to any such person requiring the same by the undermentioned Solicitors on payment of the regulated charge for the same.

DATED this 14th day of October 1994.

MEMBS, EVERSHEDS, PHILLIPS & BUCK
Fitzalan House, Fitzalan Road
Cardiff CF2 1XZ
Solicitors for the above-named Company

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE CHANCERY DIVISION No 807 OF 1995 IN THE MATTER OF **NOBO GROUP PLC** AND IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Order of the High Court of Justice, Chancery Division dated Wednesday the 1st day of February 1995, confirming the reduction of £16,000,000 in the amount standing to the credit of the Share Premium Account of the above Company was registered by the Registrar of Companies on 7th February 1995.

NORTON ROSE
Kempson House, PO Box 570, Camomile Street, London EC3A 7AN
(Ref: MHJ/63/01314B6)
Solicitors for the Company

BIGWORTH PROPERTIES LIMITED

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a Meeting of the Creditors of the above named Company will be held at 1 Surrey Street, London WC2R 2NT on 27 February 1995 at 10.00 am for the purposes mentioned in Sections 99 to 101 of the said Act.

A list of the names and addresses of the Company's Creditors will be available for inspection free of charge at 1 Surrey Street, London, WC2R 2NT between 10.00am and 4.00pm on the two business days immediately before the day fixed for the Meeting.

Creditors wishing to vote at the Meeting must lodge (unless attending in a personal capacity) a proxy at PO Box 88, 1 Surrey Street, London WC2R 2NT no later than 12 noon on the business day before the day fixed for the Meeting. Creditors intending to vote at the Meeting must lodge a full statement of account with their proofs. Unless there are exceptional circumstances, a Creditor will not be entitled to vote unless a claim has been lodged and admitted for voting purposes. Secured Creditors must, unless they surrender their security, give particulars of their security and its assessed value if they wish to vote at the Meeting.

By Order of the Liquidator
A.D. LEWIS
Liquidator

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE CHANCERY DIVISION NO.007851 OF 1994 IN THE MATTER OF **STURGE HOLDINGS PLC** AND IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Order of the High Court of Justice (Chancery Division) dated Wednesday the 8th February 1995, confirming the reduction of the capital of the above Company from £13,750,000 to £3,630,153.40 and the Minute approved by the Court showing with respect to the capital of the Company as altered the several particulars required by the above-mentioned Act were registered by the Registrar of Companies on 9th February 1995.

NORTON ROSE
PO Box 570, Kempson House, Camomile Street, London EC3A 7AN.
Ref: USF/63/01391-40

SOUTH COAST FLOORS LIMITED
THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that ROGER WILLIAM CORK AND DAVID ALAN ROLPH of MOORE STEPHENS, 1 SNOW HILL, LONDON EC1A 2EN were appointed Joint Liquidators of the above named company on 15th February 1995. Creditors are required, on or before 31st March 1995, to send their names and addresses and particulars of their debts to the Liquidators and, if so required by notice in writing from the Liquidators, are to come in and prove their debts or in default thereof they will be excluded from the benefit of any distribution made before such debts are proved. Dated this 17th day of February 1995 ROGER W. CORK, Joint Liquidator.

TO the Clerk to the Licensing Justices for the Licensing District of Harrow sitting at Harrow Magistrates' Court, Rosslyn Crescent, Harrow, Middlesex HA1 2JY.

TO the Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis, Harrow Police Station, 74 Northolt Road, South Harrow, Middlesex HA2 0DN.

TO the Town Clerk of the London Borough of Harrow, Civic Centre, Station Road, Harrow, Middlesex.

TO the Chief Officer L.F.C.D.A., Marion House, 61/65 Staines Road, Hounslow, Middlesex TW3 3JG.

I, PRAVIN KESHVJI PATEL now residing at 42 Cuthington Close, Harrow, Middlesex HA3 8LY, having during the past six months carried on the trade or calling of Company Director, and being a person interested in the premises described below do hereby give notice that it is my intention to apply at the Transfer Sessions for the said Division to be held at The Court House, Rosslyn Crescent, Harrow, Middlesex on the 8th day of March 1995, for the provisional grant to me of a Justices' licence authorising me to sell by retail intoxicating liquor of all descriptions for consumption On the premises about to be altered or extended for the purpose of being used as a house for the sale of intoxicating liquor situated at 14 Station Parade, Belmont Circle, Kenton Lane, Harrow, Middlesex and to be known by the sign of TAMINDO'S, of which premises Tamingo Limited is the owner.

DATED this 10th day of February 1995

Hodders of 11 Station Road, Harlesden, London NW10 4UD, Solicitors and Agents for the Applicant.

NOTICE OF INTENDED DIVIDEND INSOLVENCY RULES 1986. RULE 11.2. IN THE LANCASTER COUNTY COURT. NO. 10 OF 1990
IN THE MATTER OF PETER ANDREW SPENCE (IN BANKRUPTCY). I, MELVYN LAURENCE ROSE of Messrs Elliot, Woolfe & Rose, Lidgra House, 260 Kingsbury Road, London NW9 0BS Trustee of Peter Andrew Spence do hereby give notice of my intention to declare and pay a first and final dividend to all known Creditors of the Estate in Bankruptcy within four months of the date hereof. Any person claiming to be a Creditor of the Estate is required to provide me with full particulars of their claim within 21 days of the date hereof, failing which they shall be excluded from the aforementioned dividend. DATED THIS 16th DAY OF FEBRUARY 1995, MELVYN LAURENCE ROSE - TRUSTEE

SPRINGWELL HAULAGE LIMITED (IN LIQUIDATION)
Principal Trading Address: Unit 7A, The Dilloways, Southall, Middlesex
Company Number 2366810
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to Rule 4.106 of the Insolvency Rules 1986 that on 31 January 1995, David Llewellyn Morgan was appointed liquidator of the above named company (Compulsory winding up.)
Touche Ross & Co
PO Box 810
Cedric House
8-9 East Harding Street
London EC4A 3AS

BRENTAPAC UK plc
Registered Number: 1458075.
Former company name: Brentapac U.K. Co. Limited.
Trading name: BRENTAPAC UK plc. Nature of business: Manufacturers of plastic and packaging products. Trade classification: 3149
Date of Appointment of Administrative Receiver: 8 February 1995. Name of person appointing the Administrative Receivers: United Overseas Bank Limited. Joint Administrative Receiver: G.M. Jones and P.E. Harrington both Morison Stoneham, 805 Salisbury House, 31 Finsbury Circus, London EC2M 5SQ.

ARTSTOP LIMITED
Registered Number: 2667706
A meeting of unsecured creditors has been convened by the Joint Administrative Receivers of the above mentioned company pursuant to Section 48 (2) of the Insolvency Act 1986 for the purpose of presenting to that meeting a copy of the report prepared by the Administrative Receivers under Section 48 (1) of the said Act and for the purpose, should the creditors think fit, to establish a committee of creditors under the provisions of Section 49 of the said Act.
The meeting will be held as follows:
Date: 28 February.
Time: 11.30am
Place: 6 Raleigh House, Admirals Way, Waterside, London, E14 9SN
Creditors whose claims are wholly secured are not entitled to attend or be represented at the meeting.
A creditor will only be entitled to vote at the creditors' meeting if: a) he has given to the receivers, not later than 12 o'clock noon on the business day before the day fixed for the meeting, details in writing of the debt that he claims to be due to him from the company, and the claim has been duly admitted under the provisions of the Insolvency Rules, and b) there has been lodged with the Administrative Receivers a proxy which the creditor intends to be used on his behalf. A form of proxy is attached (Form 8.3).
Date: 14 February 1995
Signed: COLIN GEORGE WISEMAN and PETER ANTHONY LAWRENCE
Joint Administrative Receivers
6 Raleigh House, Admirals Way, Waterside, London E14 9SN.

THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986 GRAYS TYRES LIMITED - IN ADMINISTRATIVE RECEIVERSHIP
Notice is hereby given pursuant to the Insolvency Act 1986 that a Meeting of Creditors of the above company will be held at The Lake Hotel, 254 London Road, St Albans, Hertfordshire on Thursday 2 March 1995 at 10.00 am. In order to be able to vote, details of your claim must be lodged at Torrington House, 47 Holywell Hill, St Albans, Hertfordshire AL1 1HD by no later than 12 noon on Wednesday 1 March 1995. In addition, a form of proxy must also be lodged prior to the meeting. Creditors whose claim are wholly secured are not entitled to attend or to be represented at the meeting. Creditors whose claims are partially secured should deduct the value of their security from their total claim and they will only be allowed to vote on the unsecured portion of their claim. Creditors should also note that the Joint Administrative Receivers can call for any document or other evidence to be produced to substantiate their claim. Dated this 15th day of February 1995. D J Mason & N J Hamilton-Smith, Joint Administrative Receivers.

PUBLIC NOTICES

CHARITY COMMISSION
Charity - London Federation of Clubs for Young People
The Charity Commissioners have made a Scheme for this charity. A copy can been seen for the next month at Bridge House, Bridge House Quay, Prestons Road, London E14 9QA or a copy can be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to St Alban's House, 57/60 Haymarket, London, SW1Y 4QX quoting reference number MOT-3053924/2-CDOLdn1).

CHARITY COMMISSION
Charity - City Livery Club Benevolent Fund
The Commissioners propose to make a Scheme for this charity. A copy of the draft Scheme can be seen at Sion College, Victoria Embankment, London, EC4Y 0DN, or obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to St. Alban's House, 57/60 Haymarket, London, SW1Y 4QX quoting reference BDT-212632 A/1-CDOLdn4). Comments or representations can be made within one month from today.

JOYCE DENNEYS: believed to be deceased illustrator. Any person aware of the identity of the owner of copyright in the illustrations of JOYCE DENNEYS published in Australia circa 1950 should contact GRAHAM EAST of 160 Dangar St Armidale NSW 2350 Australia. Fax: 61 67 711060 within fourteen days of the date of this notice.
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☐ Housing recovery delayed again ☐ Playing the numbers game with British Gas ☐ Saatchi by any other name

First house-sparrow of spring

☐ EACH spring, cuckoos return from warmer climes and estate agents see signs of an upturn in the housing market. Disasters permitting, the cuckoos will again be with us this year. Many estate agents are not bothering to tune up for their spring chorus this time. Statistics of what happens in the housing market in the dull months round the turn of the year do not mean much on their own. But they fit in with prevailing gloom.

January transactions are well down on 1994, even though mortgage commitments by building societies were slightly up. That may merely mean that societies took market share from banks. More likely, it confirms that trends vary widely between segments of the market and even between different suburbs, towns and regions. The humbler end of the market is still dead.

That should please some economists. A few springs ago, they were still worrying that another boom in house prices could again inject asset inflation into recovery and eventually wreck it. Abolish tax relief, impose capital gains tax, aid the rented sector, they cried. Tax relief has indeed shrunk like boiled wool but that does not explain why the housing market remains duller than consumer spending, even though the interest cost of buying has fallen steeply relative to incomes. Industrial trends and doubts over policy are doing what the economists wanted, and more. Even the most puritan did not want a declining market. People's expectations are crucial in making a long-term decision such as buying or upgrading housing. Expectations are remarkably low. The average potential homebuyer's net income is scarcely rising in real terms and no one is telling ordinary people that their incomes, as opposed to the economy, are going to go on rising. The risk of losing salaried income has also risen almost as steeply as the fear, and few now believe that house price inflation will provide a cushion.

Instead, the non-interest costs of buying have risen. Potential buyers are only too well aware that nearly a million are still stuck with negative equity. Lenders, instead of encouraging such people back into the market, have also become much more cautious. Their come-on advertisements are matched by tougher tests and more demands for insurance of every kind.

Estate agents should not give up yet, however. The abiding fear in potential buyers' minds is that interest rates will keep on rising. They hear the words of Eddie George. If the Treasury and the Bank can demonstrate that interest rates can fall while the economy is still growing healthily, buyers' psychology would change. Not perhaps, in time for Easter, but surely by the spring of 1996.

If that happens, recovery in the housing market could keep the economy growing at a crucial moment. And there need be few fears of another inflationary boom while the sober 1990s last.

And now . . . the burn-a-therm lottery

☐ TIRED of merely selecting the bonus number in the National Lottery? Embarrassed by the BBC's absurd attempts to entertain at Saturday's bewitching hour of 8 pm? Frightened, perhaps, by the nasty nasal predictions of Mystic Meg? Ring the change. Have a flutter in British Gas: the Government's quoted



lottery where the fickle finger of Heseltine, Spottiswoode, Brown (or a mystery person) could change your income overnight.

Much has been made of Camelot's achievement of a £55 million weekly turnover. But, yesterday alone, more than 14.5 million British Gas shares changed hands as gamblers merrily bought and sold. Value of these transactions: £44.6 million. Halve this for double counting and British Gas can still lay claim to a weekly pulling power of more than twice Camelot's £55 million.

Over a year, British Gas's share price has swung between extremes of 253p and 344.50p: a chance to have won the best part of £1 a share along with a 6 per cent yield. Although 14.5 million shares moved to and fro yesterday the price ended a mere 2p off at 308p. Such an adjustment, on such a turnover, tells the professional something; it tells him no one has the slightest idea which way British Gas's share price is heading.

Consider just a few of the delightful imponderables. Thursday ushers in British Gas's 1994 results. A sharp recovery, after 1993's £1.65 billion redundancy provision, is inevitable. But what toll did a mild winter take on profits? Has the 25,000 redundancy programme, as speculation has it, started to snowball? Will bullish analysts be rewarded with a useful dividend increase or will the board — sporting a new finance director out of Lord Weinstock's stable — opt for caution?

What will the Government's Gas Bill contain when it finally emerges, this month or next? Do you think the Government will underwrite genuine domestic competition? If not, the bet must be on a broad brush Bill which would promise more excruciating uncertainty until the licences are thrashed out, courtesy of the DTI and Ofgas.

New Saatchi is working on a new logo: legs crossed.

Where there is discord . . .

☐ SAATCHI sounds like a computer-generated name, as does Herro for that matter, but these are names of oh-so-real people. Cordiant sounds real but is merely an invention. To quote Saatchi & Saatchi, as it remains until next month's doubtless extraordinary meeting of shareholders: "Cordiant was selected as an expression of the new spirit within the company, characterised by accord and shared purpose." Lady Thatcher sounded a deal more convincing when she summoned the peace-making spirit of St Francis of Assisi.

Few, at least, would dispute that the group needs a new name now, even if it did not when the founding Saatchis and their long-standing creative lieutenants were still aboard. Cordiant may sound like a selection of soft drinks, with orange and lemon agencies and an off-stage raspberry from the founders' new venture. But it is no worse than WPP, remnant of a supermarket trolley manufacturer.

Assuming S&S/Cordiant has managed the £30 million plus pre-tax profit expected for 1994, embarrassed institutional investors must hope that Charles Scott, the new boss, can stabilise the underlying Saatchi & Saatchi and BSB businesses. They are still top worldscale agencies. And J Walter Thompson survived the financial miscalculations of parent WPP, after the odd wobble. If Mr Scott can hold things together, he should have no trouble netting a fortune from his proposed share options, reminiscent of Maurice Saatchi's, though fortunately geared to earnings per share rather than the share price. Margins are currently low and operational gearing is high. Paying no dividends has also done wonders for cash flow and hence interest charges.

The new risk is that desertions by one or two high-profile clients will be followed by a quieter continuing drain, making it ever harder to sustain even existing margins when costs have to be cut to match decline. No wonder Mr Scott and his allies are so anxious that Maurice Saatchi and his allies should not compete for the client base.

Profits up 40% at Low & Bonar

BY SARAH BAGNALL

LOW & BONAR, the packaging, plastics and specialist materials group, delivered a neat package to the City yesterday and was rewarded with a 27p leap in its share price to 408p.

Pre-tax profits in the year to November 30 rose 40 per cent to £44 million, beating City expectations, which ranged from £41 million to £43 million. The advance was achieved on the back of a 14 per cent rise in sales to £421 million.

Shareholders benefitted from an increase in the final dividend, which rose from 7.1p to 8.3p, making a total for the year of 11.5p, up from 10p last time. The dividend, payable on May 9, will come out of earnings of 30p a share, a 38 per cent increase.

Jim Leng, chief executive, said he was confident that further growth would be achieved in spite of rising raw-material prices, which leaped 30 per cent in the second half of the year.

All the group's three divisions lifted profits and margins, helping group margins rise from 9.5 per cent to 11 per cent.

Tempus, page 26

Coats pays £65m for American engineer

BY SUSAN GILCHRIST

COATS VIYELLA has made a £65 million expansion move in the United States through the acquisition of Bace Manufacturing, the precision-engineering group.

The British textiles firm is paying £51 million in cash for the company, which trades as SPM, and taking on £14 million of its debts.

SPM is primarily involved in high-precision moulding of plastics for the communications, computer, automotive and electronics industries. Its customers include international companies such as AT&T, Casio, Compaq, Ford, IBM and Sony.

Neville Bain, Coats' chief executive, said the business would complement Dynacast, the group's precision-engineering operation, and give it access to new plastic moulding technology as well as a strong customer base. Coats hopes to generate business from SPM's customers in Europe.

Last year Coats stated its intention of doubling the size of its precision-engineering business in the next three years. The group, already strong in metal components, has been particularly anxious to expand its plastics side.

Mr Bain said: "This deal gives us critical mass in plastics and adds a third to the size of Dynacast in one go."

He said the deal would generate some small savings but added that no plants would closed. "The benefits will come from growing the business."

Coats has been tracking SPM for three years and in active negotiations for the past six months.

The company has eight plants in North America and employs 1,100 people. It generated profit before interest and tax of $10.4 million on sales of $115.4 million in the year to December 31. The acquisition will be earnings enhancing in the first year although gearing will increase by about 9 percentage points to just under 40 per cent.

Mr Bain said the deal would not constrain Coats' ability to make acquisitions in the textiles business if any opportunities arose. Further small deals in precision engineering are also possible.

The group is on track to complete the sale of its yarns and fabrics operation to management by March. Analysts expect the business to fetch up to £100 million.

This follows the sale of its carpets division to Shaw Industries, the American group, for £19 million.

In a falling market, Coats' share price rose 1½p to 178½p.

Tempus, page 26



MARTIN BEDDALL

David Page, right, and Luke Johnson, a director, expect the company to exploit the growing trend towards eating out

PizzaExpress looks for expansion

BY SUSAN GILCHRIST

PIZZAEXPRESS is set for further expansion after reporting a 37 per cent increase in first-half profits.

The group, which has 38 company-owned restaurants and 41 franchises across the country, plans to open at least ten restaurants a year to exploit the growing trend towards eating out.

David Page, managing director, said new PizzaExpress restaurants have shown an average return on capital of 15 per cent in the first year, and are on target to exceed 40 per cent in the second year and 50 per cent in year three.

Pre-tax profits on continuing activities rose to £3.04 million in the six months to December 31, up from £2.22 million in the corresponding period last year.

The interim dividend is lifted to 0.6p (0.5p) and will be paid on on April 13.

Baldwin serves up £4.39m

BY JON ASHWORTH

BUOYANT restaurant and travel activity helped Baldwin, the tour operating, printing, property and restaurant group, lift pre-tax profits by 55 per cent to £4.39 million, against £2.83 million last time, in the year to October.

The group, which owns or manages 26 restaurants in the south of England, including the My Old Dutch pancake chain, doubled turnover in its restaurant division, and was boosted by fresh revenue from publishing and property ventures. Group turnover rose to £46.2 million (£34.6 million).

Sandy Singh, the chief executive, said that disposals of loss-making restaurants were having a positive effect.

Earnings per share were 16.6p, up from 10.1p. A final dividend of 2.4p (1.9p) makes a total for the year of 4p, up from 3.5p.

THE TIMES
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A Personal Equity Plan (PEP) is a way of investing money out of the reach of the tax man and *The Times*, in association with TSB Bank, is offering you the chance to win a £6,000 PEP.

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- The TSB Worldwide Growth Fund aims for long-term capital growth from a broad spread of international securities, with at least half of the fund invested in Europe.

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Collect four of the six tokens which are appearing this week and send them on a postcard with the answer to Saturday's questions plus the tie-breaker by March 1, 1995 to: *The Times* Win a PEP Competition, Week 1, 16 Whitefriars Street, EC4B 2NG. The winner will be selected from all correct entries received by the closing date.

* Source: Micropal offer-to-offer, income not reinvested.

THE TIMES
PEP
Token 3
TSB

Pilkington will pay Williams for Rudd

BY NEIL BENNETT, DEPUTY BUSINESS EDITOR

PILKINGTON, the glass group, will pay Williams Holdings directly for the services of Nigel Rudd, when he takes up his appointment as its chairman in July.

In a departure from standard practice, Mr Rudd, the chairman of Williams, has decided that he will not take any salary from Pilkington but that the cash will instead be paid to Williams to compensate it for the loss of his time. The size of the payments has not yet been fixed, but Mr Rudd will continue to earn the same salary from Williams, which was £690,000.

Pilkington yesterday confirmed Mr Rudd's appointment. He will replace Sir Antony Pilkington, when he retires at the age of 60 at the company's next annual meeting. Mr Rudd will be the first chairman of the group who is not a member of the founding family and the first non-executive chairman. The management of the group will remain in the hands of Roger Leverton, the chief executive.

Mr Rudd, who joined the board last August, will become one of the few British businessmen who run three leading companies simultaneously. He is also chairman of East Midlands Electricity, where he is believed to earn £75,000 a year. As well as his three chairmanships, he is also a director of Gartmore, the fund manager.

Yesterday, Mr Rudd denied that he was overstretching himself. He said that Williams would remain his first responsibility, although the group is already managed on a day to day basis by Roger Carr, the chief executive.

"A chairman should not interfere with the day to day management of a company," said Mr Rudd.

He has already visited Pilkington's plants in South America.

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IT PAYS TO TALK

STOCK MARKET  MICHAEL CLARK

Power twins advance as other shares cool

THE English power generating twins stood out like one of their cooling towers in a depressed equity market, with the City now anticipating a warm reception from investors to the sale of the Government's 40 per cent holding in the companies.

PowerGen advanced 8p to 503p, while the bigger of the two companies, **National Power**, jumped 7½ p to 481p as institutional buyers began picking up stock.

Brokers say that if the Government's sell-off is oversubscribed, institutional investors will need to buy more stock in order to increase their portfolio weightings. This will only serve to drive the price even higher.

Meanwhile, the speculators were anxiously waiting for **Trafalgar** to come up with a better offer for Northern. Trafalgar has until Friday to improve the terms currently valuing Northern at £10.48. The speculators claim Trafalgar is ready to offer between £11.50 and £12 a share.

Northern Electric advanced 8p to £11.20 yesterday and now stands 72p above the offer price from Trafalgar House, down 1p at 66p.

Only last Friday, Northern offered its shareholders a lucrative package worth 560p a share to reject the terms from Trafalgar. These included a special dividend of 150p, a forecast value of Northern's stake in National Grid and an issue of special preference shares.

The battle of words between both sides continued with Swiss Bank Corporation, adviser to Trafalalgar House, clarifying its earlier claim that a drop in the Northern share price could be expected for every penny paid out in dividends. In a separate move, Swiss Bank has reduced its holding in takeover favourite **Yorkshire**, down 18p at 856p, to 11.8 million shares, or 6.42 per cent.

The rest of the regional electricity companies came in for profit-taking after their recent impressive performance. There were losses for **East Midland**, 13p to 751p, **Eastern**, 9p to 730p, **London**, 13p to 744p, **Manweb**, 14p to 845p, **Midlands**, 12p to 772p, **Norweb**, 15p to 823p, **Seeboard**, 17p to 447p, **South West**, 10p to 864p, **South Wales**, 15p to 869p, and **Southern**, 12p to 753p.

The rest of the equity market remained in decline, extending last week's 65-point fall as it came dangerously close to the 3,000 level again. Without any lead from Wall Street, which was closed for George Washington's birthday anniversary, prices were left to drift on lack of support.

The uncertain political outlook again took its toll on investor confidence, with tomorrow's £2 billion gilt auction expected to drain much needed funds out of the system. The FT-SE 100 index, down 31.2 at one stage, was eventually left nursing a fall of 25.6 at 3,018.6 in thin trading, which saw a meagre 421 million shares change hands.

Rank Organisation was a flat market, shedding 2p at 371p ahead of last night's presentation for institutional investors arranged by Warburg Securities, the stockbroker. Top of the agenda will have been the proposed sale of part of Rank's stake in Rank Xerox to Xerox Corporation. Michael Gifford, the chairman, will no doubt have tried to concentrate on current trading. Only last week Rank revealed that turnover had grown by 10 per cent in the first couple of months, while operating profits had soared 50 per cent.

Lonrho finished 3p cheaper at 149p after claims that the Libyan Government wanted to buy a 10 per cent stake in the company were described as possibly fraudulent by Tiny Rowland, the outgoing joint chief executive. It was suggested that Mr Rowland had negotiated to sell a block of his holding in Lonrho, the company he founded.

SG Warburg, the takeover favourite, came in for a late sell-off with the price dropping 15p to 711p.

There was also renewed selling of **Sharefink**, down 12p at 143p amid growing concern about the persistent low levels of stock market volumes on profits.

National Westminster Bank stood out in a falling market with a rise of 3p to 493p ahead of full-year figures later today. These are expected to show pre-tax profits soaring from £963 million to around £1.6 billion following a drop in bad debt provisions from more than £1 billion to £650 million.

PizzaExpress shed 1p at 130p in spite of reporting a 37 per cent rise in interim pre-tax profits to £3.04 million, shareholders being rewarded with a 20 per cent rise in the payout to 0.6p. The group said prospects for the remainder of the year were encouraging.

A strong profits performance lifted **Baldwin**, the tour operator, the printing and restaurant operator, 17p to 135p. Pre-tax profits for the year were 55 per cent ahead at £4.39 million, supported by organic growth and the benefits of recent acquisitions. The group is confident about the current year and is forecasting record profits.

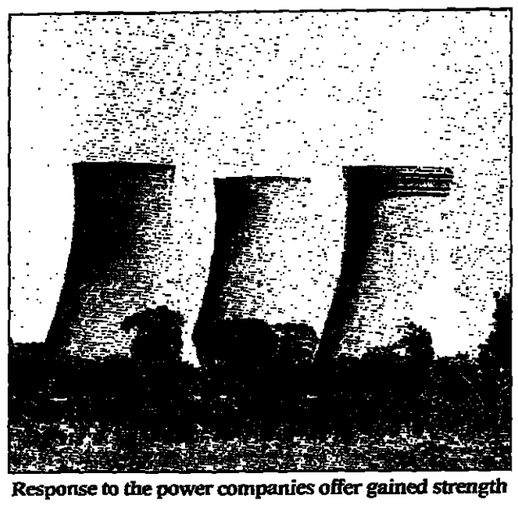
☐ **GILT-EDGED**: The market was dragged lower by the lack of institutional support. A further decline in the pound's fortunes against the mark and continuing political worries cast a shadow over proceedings.

Investors worried about a negative reception to tomorrow's £2 billion auction remain fixed on the sidelines. Prices, which had been squeezed higher on Friday, had to contend with opening falls. They never regained their poise, continuing to lose ground in thin trading conditions.

In the futures pit, the long gilt future finished £¼ lower at £101 11/32 as less than 30,000 contracts were completed.

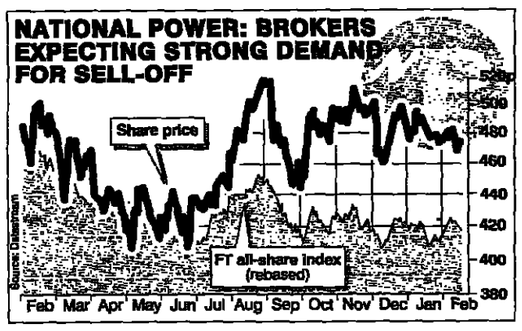
Among conventional issues Treasury 8 per cent 2013 fell £7/32 to £95 1/32, while at the shorter end Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was down £⅛ at £97 13/32.

☐ **NEW YORK**: Wall Street was closed for President's Day. Prices used below reflect Friday's close.



Response to the power companies offer gained strength

BAT Industries fell 10p to 422p, upset by the news that US smokers can pursue claims against cigarette producers for selling addictive products. The price was also depressed by a large line of stock going through the market. Cazenove, the broker, appears to have paid 415p for almost 6 million shares before selling them on at 418p.



MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):
Dow Jones ... Closed
S&P Composite ... Closed

Tokyo:
Nikkei Average ... 17956.48 (-64.03)

Hong Kong:
Hang Seng ... 7906.74 (-136.27)

Amsterdam:
EOE Index ... 410.03 (-0.92)

Sydney:
AO ... 1853.2 (-3.0)

Frankfurt:
DAX ... 2101.54 (-15.49)

Singapore:
Straits ... 2116.78 (-20.35)

Brussels:
General ... 7055.66 (-17.04)

Paris:
CAC-40 ... 1802.24 (-20.23)

Zurich:
SKa Gen ... 622.80 (-0.40)

London:

FT 30	2297.6 (-17.4)
FT 100	3018.6 (-25.6)
FT-SE Mid 250	3416.1 (-21.1)
FT-SE Eurotrack 100	1314.92 (-7.14)
FT A All-Share	1494.58 (-11.22)
FT Non Financials	1617.30 (-11.98)
FT Gold Mines	200.5 (+0.6)
FT Fixed Interest	109.82 (+0.08)
FT Govt Secs	90.89 (-0.17)
Bargains	19756
SEAQ Volume	421.5m
USM (Datastrm)	146.61 (+0.01)
US$	1.5940 (+0.0075)
German Mark	2.3332 (-0.0134)
Exchange Index	86.9 (-0.2)
Bank of England official close (4pm)	
£-ECU	1.2383
£-SDR	1.0611
RPI	146.0 Jan (3.3%) Jan 1987=100

RECENT ISSUES

Bath Press (10)	13	...
Lazard Birla Ida	50¾	– ¼
Lazard Birla Ida Wts	29¼	– ¼
MCIT S Cap (35)	34	...
MCIT S Inc (35)	36	...
Mthsn Lloyds Inv (100)	80	–1
Pentex Oil	80	–5
Photobition (150)	158	+2
Wessex Trust	11¼	...
Woodchester Units	125	...

RIGHTS ISSUES

BTP n/p (225)	13	–4
Bath Press n/p (10)	3	...
Cadbury Schws Cv Ln n/p 80		–2
European Colour n/p (57)	17	...
Nat Home Lns n/p (110)	¼	...

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:

Kleinwort Benson	634p (+11p)
Regent Inns	319p (+12p)
Spandex	288p (+15p)
Baldwin	135p (+17p)
Burmah Castrol	859p (+7p)
Low & Bonar	408p (+27p)
Sappi	1097p (+10½p)

FALLS:

SG Warburg	711p (-15p)
Tilbury Douglas	488p (-10p)
Argos	337p (-8p)
SmithKline	484p (-8p)
Wellcome	1014p (-14p)
Zeneca	891p (-7p)
BOC	716p (-11p)
Laporte	632p (-9p)
Norbain	381p (-10p)
BAT	422p (-10p)
Danka Bus Systems	358p (-10p)
Eurotherm	402p (-11p)
TI	343p (-7p)
GKN	563p (-9p)
Reckitt Colman	639p (-8p)
Commercial Union	515p (-9p)
General Accident	526p (-8p)
THORN EMI	1030p (-11p)
Carlton Comm	874p (-6p)
Thomson Corp	745p (-20p)
Sharelink	143p (-12p)
Glaxo	633p (-8p)

Closing Prices Page 29

TEMPUS

Many-coloured Coats

COATS Viyella shareholders may be forgiven for wondering what a textiles company is doing with a precision engineering business in the first place, let alone expanding it.

Cynics might suggest that Dynacast has played a useful role in filling the gaps in the volatile earnings stream from the textiles businesses. Others may subscribe to the company view that the textile and precision engineering industries have much in common. There is some truth in that analysis. But the real appeal of the business lies in its margins. In 1993, the last full year available, Dynacast's operating margins were 17 per cent. That looks attractive against the 8 per cent achieved by thread, and 7 per cent by clothing, Coats' two main textile operations.

While the deal will do little to resolve the bigger question of how precision engineering fits into the group, in itself it is a sensible move. SPM adds important plastic moulding technology and a blue chip customer base to Dynacast's existing strengths. It has been acquired at a realistic price and will be earnings enhancing from year one. Although Coats may find it difficult to lift SPM's margins to those achieved by Dynacast, there is plenty of scope for increasing them from the current 9 per cent.

Gearing rises temporarily towards 40 per cent but this is nothing to worry about. The recent sale of carpets and imminent disposal of yarns and fabrics should raise about £120 million, whereas SPM has cost only £65 million. Coats is, therefore, still free to make textile acquisitions should any opportunities arise. A good clothing acquisition in the US would silence any remaining critics.

Low & Bonar

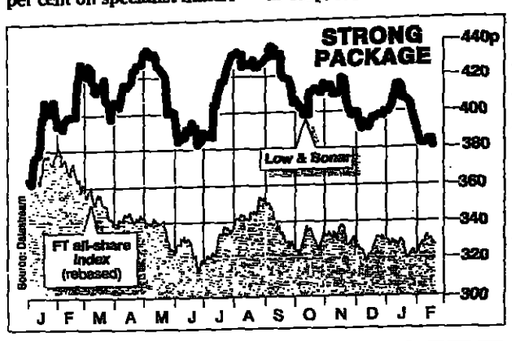
LOW & Bonar's ability to squeeze extra profits out of increased sales continues. In spite of rising raw material prices, the packaging and materials group managed to lift group margins from 9.5 per cent to 11 per cent.

Profits shot ahead 40 per cent to £44 million on sales up 14 per cent to £421 million — reflecting both organic growth and improved returns from the spate of acquisitions made in 1993. Stringent cost-cutting measures have also paid off and sales benefited from the long-awaited emergence of continental Europe from recession.

The company is big in food packaging but is protected from the supermarket price wars as many of its contracts are long-term. Packaging, the biggest division accounting for just over half of group profits, lifted margins from 7.8 per cent to 9.2 per cent.

But its two other divisions, moulding plastics and packaging specialist materials, earn the best margins. L&B made a 12.5 per cent return on sales in plastics, up from 8.4 per cent last time, and 15.7 per cent on specialist materials, up from 14.9 per cent last time.

With net cash of £7 million and nil gearing L&B is well positioned to exploit any acquisition opportunities without recourse to the stock market. Its long-term future depends on generating sales growth rather than relying on cost cutting but its shares, at 408p, look attractive.



Ashtead

FOR a company which has to depend for a living on renting equipment to depressed South East builders, Ashtead's doubling of pre-tax profits to £6.6 million in the past six months looks impressive.

Ashtead, which takes its name from the Surrey town, is, however, reaping the benefits of reducing its dependence on the UK construction and civil engineering industry from 90 per cent to 40 per cent in the past couple of years.

The market, which rates Ashtead on a multiple of 13 times forecast earnings of 31.8p for the year to April 30, is already discounting a rise in profit margins of 21 per cent to the 30 per cent levels achieved in peak of 1990.

But analysts can see scope for Ashtead to raise rental rates from the depths plumbed a few years ago. Many of the large construction companies disposed of plant hire subsidiaries in the recession and show little sign of coming back into the market. The company itself sees little rise in rental rates in the near future saying: "UK rental rates are improving only slowly from the depressed levels of the last four years and this is not likely to change significantly in the near future." Further acquisitions, however, are expected by both management and markets alike.

Pilkington

NIGEL RUDD is expanding his cv faster than he grew Williams Holdings during the Eighties. By landing the chairmanship of Pilkington, his transformation from entrepreneur to captain of industry is almost complete.

Pilkington's share price jumped more than 3 per cent yesterday on the news of his appointment. The market's reaction, however, undervalues the accomplishments of the present management in the past two years. During that time, the group has sold many of its non-core interests, restored its profitability and substantially reduced borrowings.

The group's profits are still well below their peak in the late Eighties, but Flachglas in Germany, the largest subsidiary, is still suffering the after-effects of recession.

The glass market is one of the most cyclical around, because like steel it is impossible to turn the furnaces off when demand is low. Pilkington has wisely reduced its dependency on the competitive European and American markets by expanding in developing regions such as China and South America. But these are not large enough to offset the effects of price pressure in the group's core markets so the group's return on sales and capital are still unacceptably low. The scale of the task is greater than any Mr Rudd has faced before in Williams, which is a parochial business by comparison.

EDITED BY NEIL BENNETT

COMMODITIES

LONDON COMMODITY EXCHANGE

COCOA

Mar	1038-1036	May	1065-1061
May	1029-1028	Jul	1074-1071
Jul	1037-1035	Sep	1083-1079
Sep	1046-1043	Dec	1095-1091
Dec	1049-1045		
Mar	1057-1053		Volume: 1337

ROBUSTA COFFEE ($)

Mar	3000-2995	Nov	2865-2855
May	2960-2958	Jan	2850-2835
Jul	2900-2898	Mar	2840-2825
Sep	2876-2875		Volume: 3358

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)

Reuters		Dec	346.4-44.4
Spot: 407.5		Mar	343.4-41.4
May	402.0-01.3	May	343.3-41.3
Aug	384.0-83.3	Aug	341.3-38.3
Oct	351.9-50.3		Volume: 414

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

Average fatstock prices at representative markets on February 17

(p/kg lw)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
GB:	82.01	121.82	120.37
(+/–)	-0.81	+2.40	+0.22
Eng/Wales:	82.01	121.56	120.25
(+/–)	-0.81	+2.95	-0.08
(%)	-12.0	+20.0	+8.0
Scotland:	unq	122.90	121.14
(+/–)	..	+0.75	+2.42
(%)	..	-3.0	+22.0

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm)

CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	17.40	+0.05
Brent 15 day (Apr)	17.00	n/c
Brent 15 day (May)	16.85	n/c
W Texas Intermediate (Apr)	unq	unq
W Texas Intermediate (May)	--	--

PRODUCTS ($/MT)

Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

Premium Gas .15	B: 172 (+3)	O: 174 (+3)
Gasoil EEC	147 (+1)	149 (+2)
Non EEC 1H Mar	148 (+1)	149 (+1)
Non EEC 1H Apr	149 (n/c)	150 (n/c)
3.5 Fuel Oil	106 (+3)	108 (+3)
Naphtha	169 (+2)	171 (+3)

IPE FUTURES (GNI Ltd)

GAS OIL

Mar	144.25-44.50	Jun	146.50-46.75
Apr	146.00-46.25	Jul	148.00-48.25
May	146.25-46.50		Vol: 5817

BRENT ($.00pm)

Apr	16.98 BID	Jul	16.70-16.78
May	16.83-16.85	Aug	16.66-16.72
Jun	16.83 SLR		Vol: 16389

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

WHEAT (close £/t)		BARLEY (close £/t)	
Mar	108.90	Mar	103.15
May	110.00	May	104.65
Jul	111.20	Sep	96.85
Sep	98.65	Nov	99.25
Nov	99.80	Jan	100.75
Volume: 389		Volume: 18	

POTATO (£/t)

	Open	Close
Apr	277.0	281.8
May	306.0	310.3
Jun	unq	unq
	Volume: 93	

RUBBER (No 1 RSS Clf p/k)

Mar 113.75-114.25

BIFFEX (GNI Ltd $10/pt)

	High	Low	Close
Feb 95	2035	2020	2035
Mar 95	2055	2034	2050
Apr 95	2050	2031	2045
Jul 95	1790	1770	1785
Vol: 388 lots		Open Interest: 3828	
		Index 2002 +10	

(Official) (Volume prev day)

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE

Rudolf Wolff Vol: 667050

	Cash:	3mth:	
Copper Gde A ($/tonne)	2885.0-2886.0	2876.0-2877.0	
Lead ($/tonne)	581.00-582.00	599.50-600.50	105675
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1038.0-1039.0	1062.0-1063.0	372550
Tin ($/tonne)	5460.0-5465.0	5545.0-5550.0	20335
Aluminium Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1900.0-1900.5	1934.5-1935.0	1196250
Nickel ($/tonne)	8330.0-8335.0	8480.0-8490.0	50352

LIFFE OPTIONS

Series	Calls Apr	Calls Jul	Calls Oct	Puts Apr	Puts Jul	Puts Oct
Alld Dom	460	40	47	54	3	13	15
(*462)	500	14	22½	31	17½	30½	32½
Argyll	260	18	22½	27	7	13	14½
(*268)	280	8	12½	17½	17	24	25½
ASDA	60	8	10	11	0½	1½	2
(*67)	70	1¼	4½	5½	4	9½	9¾
Boots	460	31½	39½	37	7	18¾	21
(*469½)	500	4½	13½	19	32	43	44½
Br Airways	360	25	33¾	40½	6½	15	19
(*375)	390	9¾	18	26	21	31	34½
BP	390	28½	35	41	4	7¾	13
(*410)	420	10	18½	25	17	30½	26½
Br Steel	140	15½	19¾	22	1¼	4	5½
(*152½)	160	4	8	11½	10	13	14½
C & W	360	28	36	44½	5	11¼	16½
(*380)	390	11	19	29	17½	26	31
CU	493	24	—	—	13	—	—
(*514½)	543	4¾	—	—	46½	—	—
ICI	700	36	48½	57	15	22½	30½
(*729)	750	10	25	39½	46	50½	57
Kingfishr	390	29	34½	41½	6½	16	21
(*407)	420	12½	18½	27	19½	32	37
Land Sec	550	37	44½	49	4	15½	18
(*577½)	600	9	16	22	26	43½	46
M & S	360	23½	30½	35½	3½	9	12
(*376½)	390	7	14	20	16	24	27
Nat West	460	34½	44½	50	8½	13½	20½
(*493)	500	11	24	29½	28	33	40
Sainsbury	390	31	38	43½	3½	10½	12½
(*414)	430	11½	21	27	14	24	26½
Shell	700	30½	43½	54½	10	16	22½
(*727)	750	15	28	38½	40½	44	49
Smkl Bch	460	29½	39½	48	8	14	19½
(*483½)	500	9	19½	28½	27	34	39½
Storehse	220	11	16	19½	4½	9½	11
(*224½)	240	3	7	10½	17	21	22
Trafalgar	60	8	11	12	1	2	3
(*66)	70	3	5½	7	5½	6½	7½
Unilever	1150	41	63½	86½	24½	37	43
(*1173)	1200	15½	39	60½	55	65	70
Zeneca	850	51½	71	85½	21½	29	39½
(*899)	900	25	45½	60	48	54	64

Series	Calls May	Calls Aug	Calls Nov	Puts May	Puts Aug	Puts Nov
Grnd Met	360	19½	24½	31	10	15½	18
(*363½)	390	7	11½	17½	28	32½	34½
Ladbroke	160	16	20½	23	3½	6¼	8½
(*173)	180	5½	10½	13½	13½	16½	19
Utd Biscs	330	24	29½	34	12	16	20
(*346)	360	9	16	20½	30	33	36

February 20. 1995 Tot: 19377 Call: 9977 Put: 9400 FT-SE Call: 4857 Put: 4357

*Underlying security price.

Series	Calls Apr	Calls Jul	Calls Oct	Puts Apr	Puts Jul	Puts Oct
BAA	420	27	35	41	5½	11½	13½
(*437½)	450	10	—	—	18	—	—
Thames W	460	24½	35½	39½	6½	20	24½
(*473½)	500	7	15½	20	29½	44½	47½

Series	May	Aug	Nov	May	Aug	Nov
BAT Ind	420	16½	24	29½	22	31	34
(*421½)	460	5½	10½	15½	52	58	60½
BTR	300	15	22	25	11	14	18½
(*309)	330	4	10	13	21	23	26½
Br Aero	448	36½	—	—	14	—	—
(*471½)	487	17	—	—	34	—	—
Br Telcm	360	33½	40	42½	4	9½	11½
(*384)	390	14½	21½	25	14½	23½	25
Cadbury	409	27½	37	—	9	12	—
(*422)	447	8½	18	—	28	32	—
Guinness	390	32	38	42	6½	10½	13
(*416)	420	12½	21½	26	20½	24½	27
GEC	280	16½	22	25	6	12	14
(*286)	300	7	12	15½	17	23½	25½
Hanson	220	20	23	24½	1½	5½	7½
(*234½)	240	7½	11½	14	9	14	16½
LASMO	140	15½	20	23½	3½	5	6
(*151½)	160	5½	9½	13	13	14½	16
Lucas	180	15	21	25	6	9	12½
(*188½)	200	6	12	15½	17	19½	23
Pilkington	140	20½	22½	25½	1	2½	4
(*157½)	160	7	10	13½	7	10	12
Prudential	300	10	16	20½	15½	19	22½
(*309½)	330	3	7	10	39½	41	43
Redland	420	25½	31½	36	16½	22½	27
(*435)	460	7	14	19½	44½	48	52
R-Royce	140	15½	18½	20½	3½	6	8½
(*152)	160	4½	9	11½	15	17	19
Tesco	240	12	16	19	9	12	14
(*243)	260	3½	7	10½	22½	24½	26
Vodafone	180	12½	17	21½	8	10½	13
(*182½)	200	4½	8½	13	30	32	34
Williams	300	25½	29½	32½	6½	10	14½
(*319)	330	8	14	18	22½	26	30

FT-SE INDEX (*3017½)

	2900	2950	3000	3050	3100	3150
Calls						
Mar	126½	85½	52	28	13	5
Apr	141	106	76	52½	33½	19
May	160½	128	98½	74	53½	37½
Jun	170	141	110	88	65	50
Dec	261	—	200	—	152	—
Puts						
Mar	13	34	71½	68	104	148½
Apr	33	48	68	94½	129½	163½
May	44	61½	81½	108	137	172
Jun	53½	74	92	120	146½	182
Dec	100	—	137½	—	188½	—

Series	Mar	Jun	Sep	Mar	Jun	Sep
Abbey Nat	420	19½	26½	33½	7	15	21
(*436½)	460	2½	10	16	36½	43	44
Amstrad	150	5	11	—	5½	11	—
(*150½)	175	0	5	—	26	28	—
Barclays	600	17	30	43	18	28½	38
(*604½)	650	1¼	12	23½	57½	62½	69½
Blue Circ	260	11½	20	26½	3½	14	18
(*269)	280	2½	11	17½	14	26	29½
Br Gas	300	10½	18	23½	3½	11	14
(*308)	330	0	5	10½	22½	30½	32½
Dixons	200	11½	19½	22½	3	7½	12
(*208)	220	2½	9½	12½	13½	18½	24
Kyota	220	15	20	26½	1½	7½	10½
(*232)	240	4	10	15	10	18	21
Hillsdown	160	16½	19	21	0	4½	7
(*175½)	180	2½	6½	10	6½	14½	17½
Lonrho	140	10½	15½	19	3	4½	7
(*149)	160	1	7½	9½	11½	14½	17½
Sears	100	3½	5½	8	2½	6	6½
(*100½)	110	0½	2	4	9½	12½	13
Thorn Emi	1000	39½	71	83	6	21½	36
(*1030)	1050	10½	41½	54	28	43½	61½
Tomkins	220	10	17½	21½	3	8	13
(*225½)	240	2	8½	12	15	19	24
TSB	220	17½	26½	31	1½	7½	11
(*234)	240	5½	15½	20	9½	16½	20½
Wellcome	1000	36½	43	56½	27	36½	38
(*1013½)	1050	15½	21	34	60½	65½	67

Series	Apr	Jul	Oct	Apr	Jul	Oct
Glaxo	600	49	69½	76	9½	16½	28½
(*633)	650	18½	35½	49	31	37½	52½
HSBC	650	39½	43½	57½	30½	43½	53
(*659½)	700	9	24	38½	66	75	83½
Reuter	420	25	37½	47	10	18	20½
(*436½)	460	7½	19	28½	33½	40½	42

Series	May	Aug	Nov	May	Aug	Nov
Royal Ins	280	12½	18½	23	16½	20½	25½
(*280)	300	5½	11	15½	30	33	38

Series	Mar	Jun	Sep	Mar	Jun	Sep
Fisons	110	10½	16½	19	2½	7	9
(*118)	120	4½	11½	14½	7	12	14

Series	May	Aug	Nov	May	Aug	Nov
Eastern Gp	700	57	70½	79½	17½	32½	39
(*708)	750	29	43	54	48	58	64½

Series	Mar	Jun	Sep	Mar	Jun	Sep
Natl Pwr	460	23	37	41	1½	13½	18
(*479½)	500	3	16	21	21½	35	39½
Scot Pwr	300	24½	34½	39	1	6½	11½
(*325½)	330	5	16½	22	11½	18	25½

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
FT-SE 100	Mar 95	3023.0	3030.0	3006.0	3012.0	6621
Previous open interest: 70671	Jun 95	3022.0	3026.0	3022.0	3020.0	243
FT-SE 250	Mar 95	3430.0	3430.0	3430.0	3415.0	100
Previous open interest: 4031	Jun 95	3451.0	3451.0	3451.0	3436.0	100
Three Month Sterling	Mar 95	93.03	93.05	93.03	93.04	5106
Previous open interest: 458328	Jun 95	92.29	92.30	92.27	92.28	7941
	Sep 95	91.82	91.83	91.80	91.80	3892
Three Mth Eurodollar	Mar 95	93.66	93.67	93.66	93.67	38
Previous open interest: 2437	Jun 95	93.16	93.17	93.16	93.17	84
Three Mth Euro DM	Mar 95	94.86	94.87	94.85	94.87	5355
Previous open interest: 781486	Jun 95	94.52	94.53	94.50	94.52	7790
Long Gilt	Mar 95	101-16	101-17	101-08	101-11	18413
Previous open interest: 96543	Jun 95	101-18	101-18	101-16	101-15	3861
Japanese Govmt Bond	Mar 95	109.26	109.26	109.15	109.18	454
	Jun 95	108.51	108.54	108.41	108.43	1624
German Gov Bd Bund	Mar 95	90.59	90.70	90.59	90.66	27548
Previous open interest: 230423	Jun 95	90.15	90.16	90.09	90.10	3306
Three month ECU	Mar 95	93.76	93.81	93.76	93.80	927
Previous open interest: 24474	Jun 95	93.24	93.30	93.24	93.30	1135
Euro Swiss Franc	Mar 95	95.98	96.02	95.97	96.01	882
Previous open interest: 48743	Jun 95	95.64	95.70	95.64	95.69	954
Italian Govmt Bond	Mar 95	99.88	100.00	99.76	99.82	8842
Previous open interest: 56487	Jun 95	98.78	98.90	98.78	98.79	223

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 6%. Finance Hse 7
Discount Market Loans: O/night high: 7 Low 6½ Week fixed: 6¾
Treasury Bills (Dis): Buy: 2 mth 6⅛ ; 3 mth 6⅛ . Sell: 2 mth 6¼ ; 3 mth: 6¼ .

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	
Sterling Money Rates:	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	7⅛-7⅛	7⅛-7⅛
Interbank:	6⅛-6¼	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	7⅛-7⅛	7⅛-7⅛
Overnight: open 6¼, close 6⅛ .					
Local Authority Deps:	6⅛	n/a	6⅛	7⅛	7⅛
Sterling CDs:	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	7⅛-7⅛	7⅛-7⅛
Dollar CDs:	5.98	n/a	6.15	6.41	6.92
Building Society CDs:	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	7⅛-7⅛	7⅛-7⅛

ECGD: Fixed Rate Sterling

هكذا من الاصل

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Grender takes on Lehman

THE legal newspaper, *The Lawyer*, reports, in its issue of February 14, that Gordon Grender, former senior vice-president and portfolio manager of Lehman Brothers Global Asset Management, is suing Lehman Brothers for damages after losing his job. His writ says he moved in to his office in London on January 29 and 30 last year, and started work on January 31, and that his contract terms included £100,000-a-year salary, a guaranteed minimum bonus of £100,000 a year for 1994 and 1995, a bonus of 30 per cent of the gross fees received in respect of funds managed and 35 per cent of brokerage commissions received by Lehman as a result of advice given by him to clients. He claims his minimum terms of employment were until January 31, 1996, with a provision for three months' notice by either side, but that on August 15 last year, he was told his employment was to be terminated. He says the company was in "repudiatory" breach of contract. The writ is issued by Reid Minty, the firm of solicitors. Lehman said it will be defending the action.

Search for Krug

IF YOU happen to have a spare magnum of Krug 1975, and you are not of a mind to drink it, then I know someone who will. In May, *Wine Magazine* is staging a tasting event of the great champagnes of 1975 and 1976, but is "missing" a Krug 1975. Not even the great champagne house itself has one. So, turn out your cellar, and name your price.



"New mortgage lending is down — credit card spending is up"

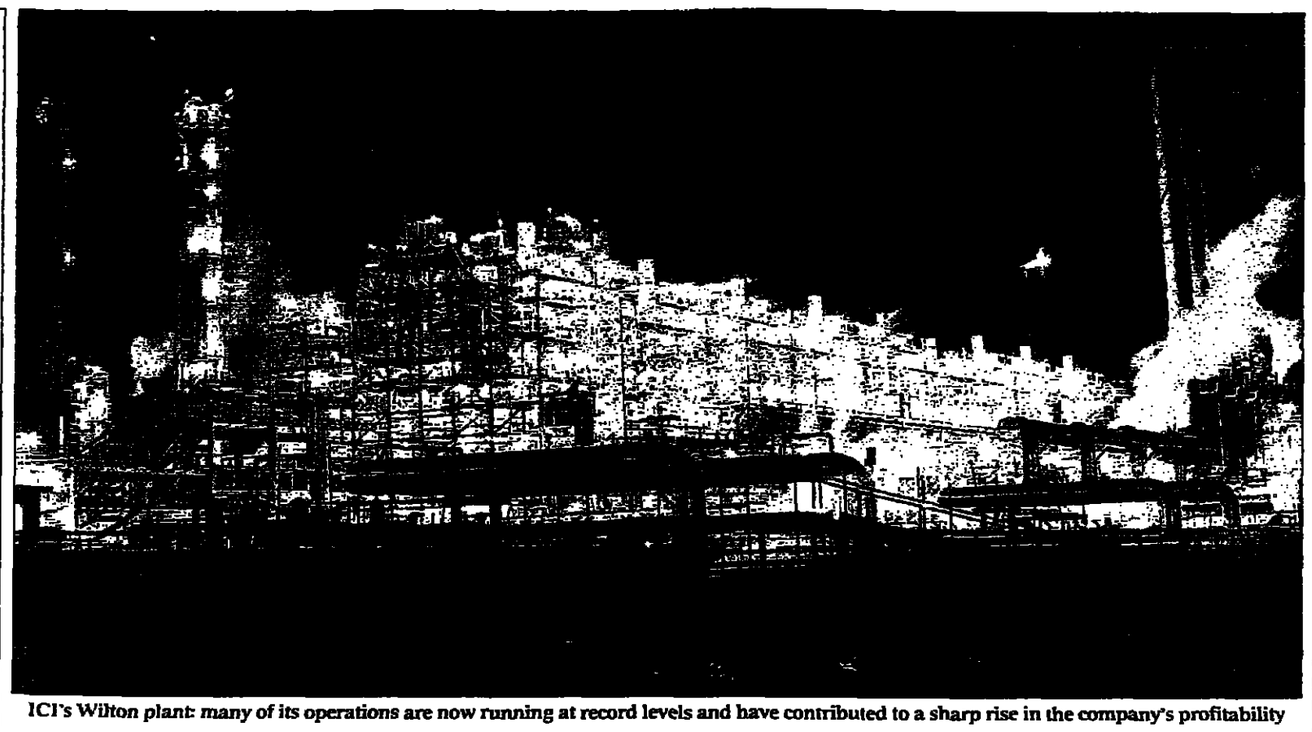
On the boil

BRITISH GAS, whose flame of public confidence burns low, has a reader bemused. He writes: "This month I switched on BBC TV and caught the final moments of *Business Breakfast* in which a spokesman for the Hungarian gas industry listed the types of expertise they hoped to gain from some form of co-operation with British Gas. These were: financial management; public relations; and technical. Several alternative explanations occur to me for the inclusion of the second category. (a) I was momentarily transferred to a parallel universe. (b) The BBC thought it was April 1. (c) Hungarians have a sense of humour similiar to our own. Can anybody please help?"

Chief teamaker

ACCOUNTEMPS, the financial recruitment consultant, has trawled 200 companies and recorded some of the lies job seekers tell. Experience was the main area of deceit, and many lie about their age. One candidate claimed to hold a managerial position, but had merely spent one day in the job as holiday cover. Another said she had an important job — but all she did was make the tea. Probably because people realise that the P45 catches up with them, lies about previous salary are not that common.

COLIN CAMPBELL



ICI's Wilton plant: many of its operations are now running at record levels and have contributed to a sharp rise in the company's profitability

Fear is the catalyst that drives ICI's productivity revolution

Employees fearful of losing their jobs are helping to push through sweeping changes on Teesside, **Philip Bassett** reports

Stand on top of the huge £1 billion naptha cracker plant at the heart of ICI's petrochemical plant at Wilton on Teesside, which now pumps out 830,000 tonnes a year of ethylene and other products — the basic building blocks for plastic — and what you notice is that are no people to be seen.

"D'you know how many people it takes to operate all this?" shouts the plant's manager, Peter Bentley, above the roar of the massive compressors. "Fifteen."

The giant cracker is at the heart of ICI's Teesside operations, and the handful of people now needed to work its integrated systems encapsulates the scale of the change that has engulfed this and many other industrial areas of Britain. At its peak, ICI employed 40,000 people on Teesside. Now it is down to 7,000 — and Bob Bew, the managing director of the company's petrochemical and fertiliser businesses, acknowledges that yet more people will go.

But the huge restructuring at ICI Teesside has led to record production levels in many areas of the plant, and contributed to the success that will be revealed in ICI's annual results on Thursday. In general, the chemicals industry worldwide has enjoyed a good year and, after three good quarters, City analysts expect ICI's final-quarter pre-tax profits to be up sharply from £42 million last year to about £135 million this time — largely boosted by the turnround in industrial chemicals.

Michael Portillo, the Employment Secretary, says the rapid growth in exports — up 8.5 per cent on the already-rising trend of a year ago — is now creating "the kind of recovery that people in Britain have been dreaming about for decades". A key exporter such as ICI is central to that, and the company's chemical and polymers business, rooted in Teesside, is a vital component, accounting for 58 per cent of the company's total UK exports.

But the restructuring at Teesside has been at a heavy cost. "Along both banks of the Tees the railway sidings, blast furnaces, heavy engineering and smoking chemicals plants have gone," says a recent report on the area prepared by the local CBI. It points out that 20 years ago, 35 per cent of the area's non-service employment was in coal, shipbuilding and steel — industries that today employ only 3 per cent of the manufacturing workforce.

"The era of massive industry may be passing," admits the CBI report, part-authored by Arthur Dicken, the quietly spoken but forceful manager of ICI's operations on Teesside. But he and the CBI are not pessimistic: "We should not be worrying about the decline of mature and historical big industry on Teesside: this is the way of things, a natural consequence of production lifecycles, and can be anticipated and managed."

But it is hard to accept such confidence in the brutal housing estates of Grangetown, close by Teesside's ICI and British Steel plants which used to provide jobs for those living there and now provide a great deal fewer.

"Large-scale job losses from shipbuilding, steelmaking, chemicals and heavy-engineering industries over the past 20 years have left a substantial, largely unskilled workforce with little local opportunity for employment," says a new report on the area from the local Langbaurgh borough council. "As a result, unemployment levels in Grangetown ward are 21.2 per cent" — half as high again as the already-high 14 per cent for Middlesbrough as a whole. What that means in practice in the area is near-total hopelessness: high levels of crime, drugs, fear, deprivation and poverty. Less than a third of people in the area are in work, two-thirds have no car, and household overcrowding is twice the national average. But hopelessness is not complete: a raft of local bodies, and companies such as ICI, have just won government approval — and money — for a £20 million scheme for a range of crime, housing and training initiatives.

But industrial managers acknowledge that local people's trust of the large employers has fallen sharply. ICI has felt this perhaps more than most because of its policy, as part of its restructuring, of getting out of non-core businesses and selling them to what had always been seen as competitors. That means that in the very heart of the 1,200-acre Wilton complex, for instance, are now plants bearing names that look and feel strange: BASF making propathene, DuPont in nylon fibres, and BP doing polythenes. Union Carbide is the latest non-ICI firm to raise its flag on the site. It has bought Wilton's ethylene oxide business, but the presence of the company has raised concern among locals for whom the name of Union Carbide is forever associated with the Bhopal gas disaster.

The fading trust between local people and the companies has been further dented by a decision by DuPont, having bought the fibres plant, to withdraw from it and close it in 1997. "It was really a massive shock to everybody on the site — top to bottom," says Mr Dicken. "We told them in good faith that we were transferring things to a good, solid company which would look after it. And they didn't."

> At its peak, ICI employed 40,000 people on Teesside. Now it is down to 7,000

But like many job shocks that have hit industrial plants all over Britain, the arrival at Wilton of what had been the enemy, and were now the customers, has had a huge impact. "Our guys now know that their customers are on the end of a pipe three or four minutes away," says Paul Booth, the production area manager for Wilton's olefines complex, with overall charge of the massive cracker plant, as he looks over his shoulder at the Union Carbide plant outside his window. "There's been a change in culture. There's a recognition of what life is like outside the bubble."

Chris Armstrong agrees. He is a worker in the Wilton complex's own power station, which traditionally supplied electricity for the site as a by-product in making steam for the plants' chemical processes. But two years ago, Enron, the expansionist Texan gas company, set up an £800 million combined-cycle gas power plant at Wilton, pushing down ICI's electricity bills on the site by 20 per cent — and providing the most physical competition imaginable for the long-standing No 7 power plant.

"We were a monopoly supplier," says Mr Armstrong, "and now we have a competitor on the site. And if we can't compete, we will go down."

In line with such new thinking, he was part of a team that has just won an internal ICI award for changes it proposed to allow the 27-year-old plant to be run once again at maximum load, in full competition with Enron.

All over ICI Wilton, such change is afoot, with Japanese-style teamworking and empowerment the key concepts of the day. "It's important that every single individual in the company plays their part," says Sir Ronald Hampel, ICI's chief executive.

ICI managers think that so far, empowerment has reached only about 20 per cent penetration on Teesside. They want more. But new ways of working, driven by cost and competition, are apparent. Site firemen now help to staff security gatehouses. In the cracker plant's control room, Trevor Thompson, a control operator has both had a hand in helping to shape the new computer-based systems about to be installed — and changes a blown lightbulb in the control panels rather than wait for a fitter to come and do it.

Another team award-winner, Brendan Gunn, was part of a project that has cut the overhaul time for the T8 pure terephthalic acid plant from 28 to 14.5 days, with a £3 million saving. Peter Fields' team has boosted exports from the cracker by rationalising olefine storage with a £256,000 project which recovered its costs within two months and has led to direct savings of more than £1 million.

ICI's managers accept privately that as well as genuine enthusiasm, fear is a real factor behind such changes: fear of competition, fear of failure, fear of the future. But even in the face of continuing cost pressures, the need to keep up exports and worldwide shifts in the structure of the industry, they are hopeful that an old industrial area like Teesside can successfully bid against rival ICI sites abroad for the new investment the area's plants will need.

"I was born here and I have no doubt I shall expire here," says Bob Bew. "I would like to see the company on Teesside at least as big, and perhaps quite a bit bigger. But we have to win the future."

Rivers of gold set to run red over Fairfax

Rachel Bridge reports on Kerry Packer's challenge to Australia's media laws

The battle for Fairfax, Australia's oldest newspaper group, has put Paul Keating, the Prime Minister, head to head with Kerry Packer, the media tycoon, in what is turning out to be a bitter personal contest. Packer's declaration that he wants to take control of the group has forced the Labour Government to confront flaws in its cross-media ownership laws.

By taking his stake in the group to above 15 per cent last week — the maximum allowed under the rules because he already owns the Channel Nine television station — Packer has challenged the Government to clarify exactly what the rules mean, and to spell out who is allowed to own what. His challenge comes at a sensitive time for the Government, which is facing a tough run-up to the next federal election.

Packer claims he is legally entitled to raise his stake to just below the 25 per cent stake held by Conrad Black, the Canadian media baron, provided he does not seek representation on the board, because Black has control of the group. Packer raised his stake to 17.6 per cent last week, saying: "I am not going to be stuck there at 15 per cent with everybody moving around me. I am just moving myself into a position where, if the cross-media ownership rules do go away, I am in a position of rough equity with Conrad Black to decide the future."

The Fairfax media empire has long been a coveted prize for powerful media interests, as it includes two of the world's top five classified advertising papers, *The Sydney Morning Herald* and *The Melbourne Age*, known as the "rivers of gold".

The situation has been further complicated by Packer's unexpected declaration of support for John Howard, the Liberal Opposition leader. Packer described Howard as a decent man, saying: "I don't know whether John Howard will get in this time or next time, but the truth of the matter is I think he'd do a good job if he gets there."

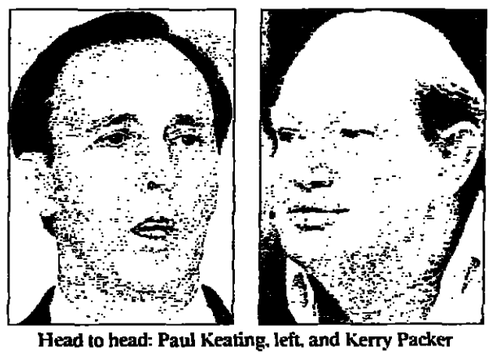
Yesterday Keating went firmly on the attack, accusing Packer of having struck a secret deal with Howard on the cross-media ownership rules. He said: "I think there's no doubt that Mr Howard has given him the nod that he would remove the cross-media rules."

Keating has made it clear that he intends to stop Packer, saying that he wants to tighten the present laws to prevent him from buying more than 20 per cent of the Fairfax stock. At the same time, he said that the onus was now on Packer, having lifted his stake above 15 per cent, to prove that he does not control Fairfax. Finally, he raised the prospect of introducing a fourth commercial family-based television network, which would compete with Packer's Nine network.

The clash between Keating and Packer marks a sharp contrast with the good relations between the Labour Government and the media barons seen in the 1980s. The big problem facing Keating is that if Packer is allowed to get round the cross-media ownership laws, then that effectively paves the way for the other players in the complex game of Australian media interests to raise their stakes too. Conrad Black, in particular, is expected to push to be allowed to raise his stake in Fairfax from 25 per cent to 35 per cent if Packer is allowed to proceed, while Rupert Murdoch has already indicated that he would like to increase his stake in Fairfax from 5 per cent to 10 per cent. At present, both are constrained by the limits on foreign ownership.

Packer last week reopened the debate on exactly who should be allowed to own Australia's media, declaring that, as an Australian, he had more right to control Fairfax than Black. Ironically, only a few days ago, Keating, too, implicitly appeared to favour Australian ownership for Fairfax, saying: "The nationalist in me always has that preference."

The sudden renewed interest in Fairfax has sparked a frenzy for the shares on the Sydney stock market, with the stock jumping to an 11-month high last week to $3.01 after a record 10 million shares were traded in a day. Yesterday, the shares had a temporary reprieve with the stock closing six cents lower at $2.95. One trader in Sydney commented: "No one really knows who has been doing what. Everyone is playing off each other."



Head to head: Paul Keating, left, and Kerry Packer

BUSINESS LETTERS

Vat Act loophole to be plugged by retrospective clause in Finance Bill

From M C Fitzpatrick

Sir, You report ("Briefings", Your Own Business, February 7) that there was an error in the Vat Act 1994 which came into effect on September 1, 1994. You further indicate that the effect of the error was to enable businesses to make "Vat bad debt relief claims" in respect of supplies made prior to April 1, 1989, whereas the original legislation (which was supposed to be faithfully consolidated into the Vat Act 1994) made it clear that such a claim could only be made in respect of supplies made on or after April 1, 1989.

You also state that the view of Stones, a firm of solicitors, is that the error is likely to be rectified, but that, in the meantime, businesses should take advantage of it.

Readers should be aware that the error has been identified by the fiscal authorities — Clause 27(4) of the Finance Bill retrospectively corrects the error such that the correction takes effect from September 1, 1994.

It is of course the case that the Finance Bill is not yet law: however, assuming that it does become law in March, it would appear that the loophole has been effectively stopped. Received wisdom is that the legislatory authorities can impose retrospective legislation where the retrospection is designed to correct a fundamental unintended error.

Businesses should only reclaim the relevant Vat in conjunction with a clear notification to Customs and Excise as to what they are doing, and why they are doing it: otherwise they may become liable to interest and penalties, should Customs and Excise subsequently pick the point up at a Vat inspection. It does not seem unreasonable to assume that Customs and Excise will be on the lookout for such claims when reviewing a business' records.

Yours faithfully,
M. C. FITZPATRICK,
Senior Tax Consultant,
Chantry Vellacott,
Russell Square House,
10-12 Russell Square,
WC1.

High cost of oil platform removal

From Mr Paul Brindley

Sir, I would like to offer some further information relating to the costs of offshore oil and gas platform abandonment. As Mr Corcoran correctly stated (Letters, February 7), the amounts estimated for these activities range from a "huge" £7 billion to £3.3-4.6 billion, and need to be seen in relation to other expenditures.

It is my understanding that these estimates are for the removal of all UKCS platforms at today's prices, and do not take into account the fact that platform abandonments will occur over a considerable period of time. Using published field life data, this period is approximately 40 years, and it can be estimated that the number of installations to be abandoned in any one year will vary from 0 to a peak of 17 in 2018. Using the £4.6 billion figure quoted by Mr Corcoran, the peak expenditure will occur in 2010 and will cost an estimated £580 million for that year.

It should also be noted that the £4.6 billion estimate quoted reflects one-at-a-time platform removals. This is an inefficient method of removing these structures, and does not allow for any "economies of scale" that could be gained by operators and contractors collaborating to allow maximum utilisation of marine vessels, thus reducing the overall costs. The forward contracting initiative Mr Corcoran mentioned would appear to not only assist operators to fix their overall costs, but may also bring the costs down by allowing efficient use of vessels, and allowing the workforce involved to apply experiences learned to each new job. It will be interesting to see how both the Government and operators, as the parties who will be paying for the abandonments, respond to this initiative.

Yours faithfully
PAUL BRINDLEY
(Consultant),
Onshore/Offshore
Decommissioning and
Demolition,
65A Sudbury Avenue
Wembley, Middx.

A point forgotten

From Mr David D. Banks

Sir, It is now 24 years since decimal currency was introduced in this country, mainly to please the financial sector and aid mechanised accounting systems.

Why is it therefore, after almost a quarter of a century, Government gilt stocks are still quoted in peculiar fractions of one pound sterling?

One thirty-second of a pound is 3.125 new pence or 7.5 old pennies, so why not quote prices in decimals of a pound?

Yours faithfully,
DAVID D. BANKS,
681 Preston Old Road,
Feniscowles,
Blackburn,
Lancashire

Lower interruptible gas prices for Business Gas customers

Business Gas is a new division of British Gas dedicated to meeting the needs of the competitive industrial and commercial gas market and of domestic customers who consume more than 73,200 kWh a year.

IS Interruptible Contract Gas Schedules: For contracts entered into on or after 1st March 1995 the percentage adjustment applied to the price in the second year of a two year fixed price contract is reduced from +3% to +0%.

MT3 Interruptible Contract Gas Schedules: For contracts entered into on or after 1st March 1995 the restriction limiting the Nominated Consumption for any individual premises to a maximum of 1,172,284,000 kWh a year is withdrawn.

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THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

ABS UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD
07855 259 783

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Gwfund Amer	159.80	169.10	- 0.50	0.82
Gwfund Equity	228.40	239.85	- 1.20	2.05
Gwfund Euro	196.70	206.30	+ 0.80	0.90
Gwfund Jap Inc	108.30	113.30	...	4.04
Gwfund Jap Inl	72.60	74.84	+ 0.01	5.29
Gwfund Gth	153.90	162.60	- 0.80	...
Gwfund Japan				

ACA EQUITY & LAW UNIT TST MGRS
01203 553 231

General Acc	608.60	641.10	- 4.40	2.98
General Inc	448.50	477.20	- 3.90	2.98
UK Growth Acc	342.90	364.80	- 3.10	3.04
UK Growth Inc	234.70	249.70	- 2.10	3.04
Higher Inc Acc	647.60	689.00	- 6.50	4.18
Higher Inc Inc	374.30	398.20	- 3.80	4.18
Gilt&Fxd Int Acc	182.90	193.10	- 0.10	5.89
Gilt&Fxd Int Inc	88.01	93.91	- 0.05	5.89
Nth America	262.70	279.50	- 0.90	...
Far East	329.50	341.00	- 2.60	0.36
Europe	268.60	283.90	- 0.70	0.85
Bal Exempt	97.94	72.17	- 0.65	3.25
Bal Fxdints Acc	97.57	103.80	- 0.70	4.85
Bal Fxdints Inc	71.58	76.15	- 0.40	4.85
Global Opps	69.31	65.44	- 0.49	0.30
Balanced Acc	51.77	55.06†	- 0.13	3.15
Balanced Inc	50.51	53.74†	- 0.11	3.15

ABBEY UNIT TST MGRS
0345 717 373

High Income				
Gilts & Fixed Int	126.50	134.20	...	7.95
High Inc Equity	154.10	164.80†	- 0.40	4.78
Worldwide Bond	281.80	277.40†	+ 1.00	5.48
Capital Growth				
American Growth	275.00	294.50†	- 1.20	0.81
Asian Pacific	255.20	314.00†	- 0.90	
Assets & Earnings	248.70	262.40	- 0.90	3.06
Comdty & Energy	95.68	101.80	+ 0.60	0.13
Euro Capital Inc	130.20	138.30	+ 0.30	0.70
(Accum Units)	139.10	148.70	+ 0.30	0.65
General	216.30	230.10†	- 1.20	2.36
Japan	112.50	120.30	- 0.40	
Maidenhead	132.70	141.90	- 0.10	1.84
UK Growth Dist	112.10	119.90	- 0.10	3.04
US Emerging Cos	131.30	140.40	- 0.80	
Income & Growth	364.00	387.70	- 1.10	4.25
Ethical	84.07	89.16	- 0.31	3.15
International	107.20	114.60	- 0.10	1.02
Dividend & Growth	57.33	60.99†	- 0.17	4.61
Global Gwth & Inc	86.37	70.61†	+ 0.12	2.56

ABERFORTH UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
0131 220 0733

UK Small Cos	£16.43	£16.71		

ABTRUST UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
0800 833 500

Amer Inc & Growth	43.29	44.93	- 0.20	0.66
Cash	56.47	58.47	+ 0.02	5.86
Emerging Mkts	64.60	67.85	- 0.34	0.05
European	109.50	114.60†	- 0.70	
Exempt	931.20	£100.57†	- 0.10	1.86
Extra Income #	45.79	48.96	- 0.04	6.18
Far East Emg Eco	106.80	113.20	- 0.70	0.55
Fixed Interest #	22.54	23.65	- 0.05	6.74
Fund Inv Tst	164.10	172.60	- 0.70	
Japan	162.40	170.30	- 0.70	
Latin American	45.56	47.81	+ 0.35	1.02
Pacific	57.75	60.60	- 0.40	0.37
Property Share	59.09	62.06†	- 0.02	2.18
UK Emerging Cos	60.22	63.22†	+ 0.10	1.95
UK Growth	41.83	44.37	- 0.33	2.84
Aber World Port #	68.44	69.50†	- 0.47	2.36
Edinvst	38.76	40.73	- 0.27	1.80
Aberdeen Gilt Inc #	48.10	49.10	+ 0.05	7.54

AEGON UNIT TRUSTS LTD
0131 549 9292

British Growth	65.82	70.02†	- 0.42	3.00
British Income	76.29	81.16†	- 0.44	3.79
Select Portfolio	81.06	86.23†	- 0.16	...

ALLCHURCHES BW MGMT SVS LTD
01452 305 958

Amity Income	70.75	75.07	- 0.31	2.60
Income Builder Inc	64.43	68.54	- 0.61	3.03

ALLIED DUNBAR UNIT TSTS PLC
IFA dlg: 01783 648 388 Client dlg: 01783 514 514

Balanced Trusts				
Growth & Income	218.90	232.80	- 1.00	3.36
Capital	378.30	404.30	- 2.80	2.05
Balanced	533.00	576.60†	- 4.00	2.94
Accumulator	£31.71	£12.51	- 10.00	3.24
Income Trusts				
Amerfirst Income	46.36	49.55†	- 0.38	2.59
High Income	368.80	391.80	- 3.50	3.94
Equity Income	306.90	331.10†	- 1.80	3.77
High Yield	222.30	237.50	- 1.80	3.65
Gilt Securities	32.45	34.25†	- 0.02	6.19
International Trusts				
Amer Spec Sits	140.40	150.00	- 0.90	0.47
European Growth	33.19	35.42	- 0.21	0.81
International	148.40	156.60†	- 0.80	0.21
Japan	187.20	199.50†	- 1.40	0.21
Pacific	262.30	277.20	- 2.80	0.01
Spec of America	411.00	437.40†	- 2.90	0.53
Worldw Assc Val	44.87	47.96	- 0.33	0.25
Specialist Trusts				
Asset Value	483.30	516.60†	- 3.70	2.47
Cprn & Gth	40.45	43.24†	- 0.07	5.37
Smaller Cos	158.80	169.70†	- 0.30	1.31
2nd Smaller Cos	151.40	161.80	- 0.20	1.50
Recovery	137.80	138.60	- 0.30	1.92
Met Min & Ctlty	136.70	146.20	- 1.10	0.80
Dmstc Earnings	324.20	346.50†	- 2.50	1.95
Technology	156.30	166.00	- 1.70	0.01
UK Special Sits	418.50	447.30†	- 3.20	1.94

B & C E UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD
01293 536 911

Deacte Dist Pens	95.54	99.26	...	3.04
Foundtn Pnsn Pens	59.89	62.22	...	1.44

BSI-THORNHILL UNIT TST MGRS LTD
0171 606 0033

Capital	66.43	70.67†	- 0.39	1.98
International	61.07	64.97†	...	...

BAILLIE GIFFORD & CO LTD
0131 222 4242

America	266.70	287.90	- 1.20	...
Bond	108.60	114.40†	+ 0.20	7.27
Bst Smlr Cos	92.78	98.70†	- 0.20	1.92
Conv & Exp #	61.91	65.54†	+ 0.22	5.69
Europe	213.80	227.40	- 0.30	0.68
Euro Smlr Cos	96.80	103.30	...	0.61
Income Gwth	330.30	351.40	- 2.70	4.32
Japan	280.60	297.70	- 1.00	...
Latin American	58.82	62.59	- 0.81	...
Pacific	96.36	102.40	- 0.84	1.53
UK Smlr Cos	48.60	52.08†	- 0.07	1.44
Japan Fd	641.70	680.40†	- 1.30	...
Mngd Pnsn	163.50	173.90	- 0.50	3.24

BANK OF IRELAND FUND MGRS LTD
0171 488 9873

Bnf & Obsec	271.80	286.20	...	1.29
Capital Gwth	104.80	110.30	...	2.43
Wrldw Opps	170.80	179.80	...	0.44

BARCLAYS UNICORN LTD
0181 534 5544

Balanced Trusts				
Bst Inv Fd Inc	322.50	335.90	- 1.50	3.25
European Bd Inc	97.39	90.51†	+ 0.10	7.92
Exempt	69.80	74.46	- 0.29	4.46
Financial	69.23	74.05	- 0.39	3.03
500	415.40	444.30†	- 0.60	2.75
General	257.70	275.80	- 1.0	2.93
Property	246.90	264.10	...	6.56
Trustee	168.70	180.40	- 1.0	2.65
Income Trusts				
Cash Inc	100.50	100.50†	...	5.61
Extra Income	111.90	119.70	- 0.40	4.34
Gilt & Fxd Int	55.31	57.17†	...	9.02
Income	487.00	530.90†	- 3.10	4.38
Income Builder	60.44	64.30	- 0.11	5.07
Income Inc	58.59	62.33	- 0.11	10.36
Growth Trusts - UK				
Capital	109.80	117.10†	- 0.60	2.67
Leisure	113.70	121.50	- 0.40	1.69
Recovery	385.50	412.30	- 0.60	3.05
Smlr Cos Inc	41.72	44.74	- 0.07	2.11
Special Sits	353.30	261.69	- 1.10	1.77
Growth Trusts - Overseas				
America	122.10	129.60	- 0.10	0.86
Aust Acc	221.80	236.00	...	2.40
Aust Inc	136.50	145.20	...	2.40
Euro Gwth Inc	144.30	153.70	- 0.30	1.61
Japan (Sterl)	154.40	162.90	- 0.30	1.01
Japan & Gen Inc	156.50	166.70	- 0.40	
(Accum Units)	158.30	167.60	- 0.40	...
Japan Spec Sits	72.06	76.37	- 0.39	...
Indv Tech Inc	74.52	79.20	- 0.26	0.05
Worldwide	150.90	165.50†	- 0.50	1.81

BARING FUND MANAGERS LTD
0171 214 1004

American Growth	88.81	94.24	- 0.68	
Amer Smlr Cos	125.40	133.40	- 0.80	
Convertibles	53.07	56.75	- 0.25	5.70
Eastern	245.60	265.70	- 1.80	0.10
Equity Income	92.95	98.24†	- 0.68	4.90
European Growth	299.00	306.40	- 1.10	0.80
Europe	211.90	225.60	- 0.40	0.70
German Growth	74.26	78.80	- 0.36	0.50
Global Bond	69.79	84.05†	+ 0.07	6.30
Global Growth	116.40	124.00	- 0.90	
Japan Growth	187.30	199.00	- 1.40	
Japan Smaller	157.70	167.80	+ 0.50	
Korea Trust	71.37	75.79	+ 1.92	
Portfolio	121.10	129.80†	- 0.60	1.80
Recovery (Accum Units)	222.60	236.70	- 1.30	1.50
UK Growth	78.41	83.41	- 0.57	2.20
UK Smaller Cos	79.59	85.54	- 0.16	1.80
Select Managers	76.04	79.66	- 0.21	1.18

BLACKSTONE FRANKS UT MGRS LTD
0171 250 3000

Intl Gwth Port Inc	70.04	74.51†	...	...
Special Oppor Inc	49.83	53.01†	...	...

For Brown Dolphin see GEM Dolphin

BRITANNIA LIFE UNIT MGRS LTD
0141 223 6020

Balanced Growth	98.97	104.73	- 0.37	1.97
(Accum Units)	111.75	117.73	- 0.41	1.97
Smaller Cos	95.34	101.11	+ 0.43	1.28
Higher Yield #	42.04	44.45†	- 0.07	4.78
American Gth Inc	69.35	73.39†	- 0.49	...
European Growth	131.93	139.61	- 0.44	...
(Accum Units)	134.53	142.36	- 0.45	...
Global Bond Inc #	26.15	27.10	...	7.83
Mngd Pnsn Inc	39.45	41.73	- 0.12	1.72
(Accum Units)	40.01	42.32	- 0.12	1.72
Int Spec Opps	107.13	113.36	- 0.16	...
Pacific Gth	113.82	120.45	- 0.46	...
Formerly UAS				
UK General #	65.67	73.73	- 0.44	3.73
(Accum Units) #	71.34	75.48	- 0.45	3.73
Japan	95.53	98.78†	- 0.19	...
Gilt & Fixed Int #	92.62	94.51†	+ 0.04	7.49

BURRAGE UNIT TST MGMT LTD
0171 480 7216

Share Based Gilt	64.80	65.84	- 0.05	6.23

CIS UNIT MANAGERS LTD
0161 837 5980

Envirow	148.20	155.60	- 0.60	1.81
UK Growth	156.30	166.30†	- 0.80	2.58
UK Income	126.10	134.20	- 0.60	4.62

CANADA LIFE UNIT TST MGRS LTD
01707 651 122

Cpn Sec Dist	175.10	185.80†	- 1.56	2.13
-do- Income Dist	105.20	111.50	- 0.50	4.49
(Accum Units)	317.40	336.40	- 1.50	4.49
Gilt & Fxd Int	38.34	40.64†	- 0.01	6.69

CAPEL-CURE MYERS UT MGMT LTD
0161 236 5685 Exec 0161 236 5685 Dlg 0161 236 5682

American & Gen	148.30	157.80	- 0.80	
European Inc	75.17	79.55	- 0.30	0.00
Smaller Cos (4-1)	76.29	81.17	+ 0.02	2.09
Growth	391.50	416.50†	- 1.50	2.05
Income & Growth	376.20	400.30†	- 3.30	4.22
(Accton Units)	536.80	571.10	- 4.70	4.22
Japan & Gen	85.05	90.02	- 0.75	...
Maste Portfolio	295.88	299.56†	- 35.00	2.09
(Accton Units)	£114.39	£118.77	- 43.00	2.09
Special Sits	99.50	95.22†	- 0.46	5.63
High Yield	£12.58	£12.66	- 0.00	4.67

For Capital House see Newton

CAZENOVE UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD
0171 606 0788

Converge Portfolio	78.32	83.60	- 0.40	2.62
American Portfolio	88.51	94.32	- 0.45	1.23
European Portfolio	94.28	100.36	- 0.29	0.79
Japanese Portfolio	59.19	62.84†	- 0.24	
Pacific Portfolio	157.94	136.61	- 0.64	0.55
Uk Inc & Growth	71.92	76.97	- 0.50	3.45
Utility & Bond	53.89	54.51	- 0.36	7.02

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
CENT BD OF FIN OF CHURCH OF ENG				
0171 588 1815				
Inv Fund	627.75	670.45	...	4.68
Fxd Int Sec	147.85	148.28	...	9.76
CENTURY UNIT TRUSTS LTD				
0171 332 5000				
UK Special Tst	59.21	62.98†	+ 0.47	3.16
CCF-CHARTRES OFFICIAL INV FD				
0171 588 1815				
Inc	616.67	628.52	...	4.96
Accum	626.21	626.50	...	...
Fixed Int Inc	120.20	120.42	...	8.63
Fixed Int Acc	187.59	187.95	...	...
CHARTERED ASSET MGMT LTD				
0171 837 7997				
Int Growth	111.09	121.79	...	...
UK Income	98.51	108.51	...	5.53
CITY FINANCIAL UT MGRS LTD				
0171 407 5995				
Beckton Intl	75.62	79.51	...	1.52
Beck Blk-Tech	28.95	29.89	...	...
Accm Ethical Tst	145.48	153.14	...	0.73
City Fin Assets	63.74	67.81	- 2.04	1.32
City Fin America	85.27	89.76	...	...
City Fin Intl	72.17	73.57	...	0.96
City Fin Japan	148.82	154.05†	...	...
Friars Hse Cap	289.24	291.00†	- 0.87	1.75
Friars Hse Inc	162.45	166.36	+ 0.23	4.75
Buckley Wrld Gth	116.13	120.54	...	0.09
Fairmst Cap Gth	128.47	137.73	...	...
Fairmst Intl	143.81	151.67	...	...
City Fin Pfds Inc	51.55	54.84	...	4.41
CITY OF LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0171 711 0771 Admin: 01277 227 300				
Emerging Markets	58.84	63.94	+ 0.48	...
CLERICAL MEDICAL UT MGRS LTD				
0800 573 393				
American Gwth	55.46	59.32	- 0.40	
Attic Mngd Gwth	34.12	36.49	- 0.24	0.47
Dragon Growth	82.25	88.58	- 0.79	0.48
Equity High Inc	77.84	83.21	- 0.72	4.25
Equity Income	104.04	111.49	- 0.96	4.25
European Gwth	48.12	52.25	- 0.15	0.85
Evergreen	26.83	28.70	- 0.27	...
General Equity	78.27	83.04	- 0.74	2.83
Gilt & Fxd Int Inc	23.93	25.06	- 0.01	8.48
Japan Growth	46.92	50.24	- 0.17	...
Pacific Gwth	47.21	50.22	- 0.30	2.84
Pref Snr Cos Inc	28.90	30.43	- 0.05	1.36
(Accum Units)	29.72	31.62	- 0.05	1.36
Retirement Inc #	24.37	25.93	- 0.19	6.19
Special Sits	35.56	37.83	- 0.28	2.10
UK & Overseas	44.54	47.81	- 0.28	1.49
COLONIAL MUTUAL UT MGRS LTD				
01634 898 000				
Capital	62.72	67.07†	- 0.51	2.37
Income	56.78	60.64†	- 0.33	4.35
COMMERCIAL UNION FINANCIAL MGMT INTL LTD				
0161 699 9816				
PRESTIGE PORTFOLIO (PPT FUNDS)				
Income Funds				
Equity Inc	147.50	156.90†	- 1.55	5.71
Fixed & Convertible	39.84	41.11†	- 0.06	7.48
Monthly Inc Plus	47.24	50.75	- 0.08	8.92
Preference Share	45.12	48.09†	- 0.01	7.53
Balanced Funds				
Managed	114.89	122.22†	- 0.92	7.63
Managed Fund	63.67	67.73	- 0.43	3.71
UK Growth Funds				
Smaller Cos	36.14	38.45	- 0.05	1.76
(Accum Units)	41.95	43.98	- 0.05	1.76
Uk & General	72.58	77.13	- 0.78	2.57
(Accum Units)	80.74	86.53	- 0.93	2.57
UK Growth	132.84	141.32	- 1.23	2.41
International Growth Funds				
Europe (Growth)	184.20	195.96	- 0.58	0.25
Far Eastern Gen	118.72	126.30	- 1.21	...
Global Bond	76.00	80.76	- 0.05	6.27
Japan Growth	108.16	115.06	- 0.76	...
North Amer Gwth	160.81	171.07	- 1.17	...
Oriental Growth	70.79	74.76	- 0.49	...
Worldwide Growth	60.58	64.87	- 0.39	0.06
OTHER CU TRUSTS (NON PPT FUNDS)				
Deposit Fund	92.95	92.95	+ 0.03	5.60
Managed Currency Fund	72.88	77.54†	- 0.50	2.58
Shelter Fund	117.38	124.87	- 0.90	2.58
CONFEDERATION FUNDS MGMT LTD				
01438 744 840				
Growth Inc	54.25	57.71†	...	3.30
(Accum Units)	58.75	62.48	...	3.30
High Income	31.95	33.98	...	4.99
Japan	32.90	35.00	...	
Smaller Cos Inc	36.44	38.76	...	2.70
Smaller Cos	30.12	32.04	...	2.70
North American	32.02	34.05	...	0.70
European	36.06	38.36	...	0.70
CONSISTENT UNIT TST MGMT CO LTD				
0171 487 5995				
Consistent Inf	29.19	31.34†	...	3.54
COOKE (HENRY) BW FUNDS LTD				
0800 525 358				
Growth	131.20	139.60	- 1.50	2.15
Income	84.99	89.14†	- 0.33	5.35
European	58.91	62.68	- 0.39	1.10
Recovery	145.10	154.40	- 0.80	1.96
CO-OP PENSION FDS UT MGRS LTD				
0171 283 9494				
Equity Dist	773.00	786.00	...	3.50
CREDIT SUISSE BW FDS (UK) LTD				
01277 680 370				
Fellowship Tst	69.01	73.41	- 0.12	1.34
Income #	221.40	235.50	- 1.90	4.94
(Accum Units) #	245.30	260.10	- 4.70	4.94
Sterling Cos	148.00	157.40†	- 0.20	0.63
(Accum Units)	186.90	192.40†	- 0.20	0.63
Inv Portfolio	73.59	78.26	- 0.36	1.59
High Inc Port #	84.10	88.19	- 0.54	5.69
DIMENSIONAL TST MGMT LTD				
0171 410 0177				
East Small Cos	£15.15	£15.52	...	...
Japan Small Cos	£11.52	£11.85	...	...
UK Small Cos	£16.83	£17.59†	...	...
US Small Cos	£15.81	£16.32	...	...
DISCRETIONARY UNIT FUND MGRS				
0171 377 8819				
Disc Inc	191.90	202.00	...	3.07
DUNEDIN UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0131 315 2500				
European Gwth	266.00	281.20	- 0.50	0.99
New Asia	193.40	206.00	- 2.80	0.16
Japan Growth	148.20	117.40	- 0.20	...
Jap Smlr Co	452.00	480.40	- 1.80	...
Nth Amer	256.60	272.00	- 1.30	0.87
Scottish Asia Pac Inc	108.40	115.70	- 1.30	0.38
UK Inc & Gth	185.50	209.80	- 1.90	3.15
EAGLE STAR UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
01292 577 555				
UK Balanced Inc	138.30	138.60	- 0.70	1.93
UK High Inc Inc	138.60	148.50	- 0.60	4.85
(Accum Units)	178.70	190.10	- 0.90	4.85
UK Pref & FT Inc	99.77	99.20	+ 0.01	5.50
Grossmont Opps	78.50	83.51	- 0.32	1.12
UK Smlr Cos #	47.00	50.00	...	...
EDINBURGH UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0345 090 526				
American	118.40	125.70	- 0.50	1.28
Convertibles #	19.55	20.72	- 0.09	5.76
Equity Income #	117.20	124.50	- 0.90	4.26
Eurofund	43.46	46.12	- 0.16	0.43
Financials	40.69	43.45	- 0.28	1.73
Growth & Inc #	216.30	229.80†	- 2.50	1.35
High Inc #	143.20	152.20	- 1.20	4.85
International	354.80	376.80	- 1.20	0.13
Int Cap Inc	97.25	98.14	- 0.36	2.36
Latin American	25.23	26.81	- 0.30	...
Pacific	73.35	78.47	- 0.40	1.69
Preference Shrs	21.78	23.14†	- 0.08	7.13
Tokyo	203.90	215.76	- 1.50	...
UK Smaller Cos	208.80	222.00	- 1.00	1.24
ELY PLACE UNIT MGRS LTD				
0171 242 0242				
Elcon Trust	201.20	214.74	+ 5.38	1.01
ENDURANCE FUND MGMT LTD				
0171 373 7251				
Endurance Fd	188.30	200.30	...	1.04
EQUITABLE UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
01296 431 480				
European	76.50	80.53	- 0.07	1.71
Ethical Tst	40.62	42.76†	- 0.21	1.45
Far Eastern	273.11	287.48	- 2.23	2.14
High Income	122.89	129.36	- 1.13	5.97
Intl Growth	110.14	115.94	- 0.57	1.37
North American	106.13	111.72	- 0.65	1.44
Pelican	108.72	114.44	- 0.72	3.34
Smaller Cos	63.75	67.10	- 0.08	2.94
Special Sits	82.54	86.78	- 0.19	2.60
Tst of Inv Tsts	170.69	179.67†	- 0.41	1.57
EVERMORE FUND MGMT LTD				
0171 467 5995				
Evermore Inc	189.62	197.52	+ 0.05	1.48
Smaller Cos Acc	331.79	345.61	+ 0.09	1.48
Recovery	48.38	50.31	- 0.05	1.41
Recovery Acc	48.62	50.65	- 0.02	1.41
EXETER FUND MANAGERS LTD				
01392 412 144				
Balanced	107.38	114.25	+ 0.22	6.99
Capital Growth	75.63	81.10	- 0.37	...
Fd of Inv Trsts	41.48	44.24†	- 0.13	0.65
High Income #	40.39	43.29†	- 0.14	10.63
Warrant	48.86	53.11	+ 0.02	...
Zero Preference	36.62	38.85	+ 0.02	...
FAMILY INVESTMENT MGMT LTD				
01273 220 707				
Family Blued Tst	73.07	77.73†	- 0.17	2.64
Family Income Tst	45.29	45.29†	- 0.16	6.31
Family Trust	79.14	84.19†	+ 0.340	1.52
United Charities	247.80	263.60	+ 0.160	3.95
FIDELITY INVESTMENT SERVS LTD				
Callbroker: Private Clients: 0800 414 181				
Cash Fund				
Bond Fund	108.00	100.00	...	5.90
Bond Funds				
Gilt & Fxd Int	26.38	28.47†	- 0.01	7.76
Intl Bond	27.28	29.30†	- 0.03	5.32
Income Funds				
High Income	23.42	24.85†	- 0.08	5.25
Income Plus	103.20	109.50	- 0.70	4.29
Amer Eq Inc	45.43	48.09†	- 0.29	2.07
European Income	46.37	42.93†	- 0.08	1.75
Far East Inc	54.58	60.29	- 0.12	2.60
Global Convertible	21.45	22.80	- 0.14	3.71
UK Div Dist	22.98	24.44	- 0.16	1.88
Equity Funds				
ASEAN	58.54	62.45	- 0.22	...
American	231.10	244.70	- 2.90	...
Amer Spec Sits	116.10	117.50	- 1.10	...
Index Smaller Cos	35.58	37.99†	- 0.14	...
European	153.10	173.50	- 0.20	...
European Opps	60.47	64.38	- 0.26	...
Global Pfic	23.48	25.02	- 0.18	1.00
UK Growth	84.65	90.01	+ 0.21	...
Growth & Inc	131.60	140.00	- 0.90	2.41
Intl PEP	34.34	36.52	- 0.26	...
Japan Spec Sits	85.90	91.50†	- 0.28	...
Japan	173.40	184.60	- 0.50	...
Managed Intl	255.30	271.90	- 2.10	...
Moneysmaker	49.56	52.72	- 0.22	...
Recovery	44.82	47.66	+ 0.31	...
Smlr E Asia	135.19	144.20	- 1.00	...
Special Sits	481.10	511.60	+ 4.10	...
Specialist Funds				
Cash Account Units	108.25	108.25	+ 0.04	5.50
FLEMING PRIVATE FUND MGMT LTD				
0171 814 2700				
Balanced #	128.50	131.30	...	1.62
Inc Philio #	79.95	81.48†	- 0.29	4.11
Cap Philio	131.10	133.50	- 0.69	1.34
General Opps	115.60	117.50	...	3.57
Growth Inc	27.84	28.37	- 0.24	1.68
Private Portfolio	382.10	390.40	...	1.35
FOSTER & BRAITHWAITE FUND MANAGEMENT LTD				
0171 407 5995				
High Inc Eqty	44.72	47.02	- 0.32	3.47
-do- Inv Tst Inc	71.28	74.93	- 0.10	4.40
Intl Growth	84.25	87.54	...	1.32
Investment Trust	84.64	89.0	- 0.13	...
UK Smaller Cos	74.35	78.09†	- 0.07	1.02
FRANLINGTON UNIT MGMT LTD				
0171 374 4100				
American Growth	54.13	57.84	- 0.59	...
(Accum Units)	54.13	57.84	- 0.59	...
Amer Smlr Cos	466.19	488.50	- 2.50	...
(Accum Units)	476.19	500.29	- 2.88	...
Capital Tst	287.78	308.00	- 0.40	1.81
(Accum Units)	410.90	437.00	- 0.50	1.81
Cont Smlr Cos	57.59	61.56	- 0.43	0.50
(Accum Units)	60.56	65.19	- 0.44	0.50
Convertibles	119.30	126.50	- 0.30	5.87
(Accum Units)	261.10	266.40	- 0.50	5.87
Emerging Markets	63.27	67.56	- 0.19	...
(Accum Units)	63.34	67.66	- 0.18	...
European	113.80	120.70	- 0.20	0.14
(Accum Units)	116.25	125.50	- 0.20	0.14
Extra Income	309.80	329.50†	- 1.50	4.08

Losses across the board

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place ten business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

BANKS

1994/95 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
523	390½	Abbey Nat	432	+ 1	4.4	14.7
314	233	Allied Irish	287	- ¼	5.3	10.3
378½	171	Aus New Z	218		2.8	16.7
2309	2462½	Bank Americ	2575	- 12½	2.3	7.5
347	172½	Bank Scotland	282	- 5	3.3	11.4
498	407	Barclays	466½		5.4	14.8
318	246	Bk of Ireland	306		4.7	8.8
2972½	2362½	Citicorp	2697½	+ 12½	4.9	10.8
265½	208	Close Bros	234		4.9	
1190½	1121½	Commercial	1143½	- 3½	6.8	
12396	9994	Dai Ichi Kan Y	12396	- 3½	5.1	11.6
6344½	5270½	Deutsche Bk	6309½	- 12½	0.5	
1315½	709½	Espirito Santo	709½	- 3½	2.3	
59	57	First Nat Finl	58		5.3	3.6
1549½	1152½	Fst Bank Y	1351½	+ 9½	2.7	44.6
1413½	998	Hambros	1228		6.5	
1112	998	HSBC	1088	- 10	4.6	14.1
1133	1000	HSBC 10%	1055	- 11	9.5	
845	683	Joseph (L)	824		4.7	9.4
482	424	Kleinwort Ben	482	- 3	3.7	11.4
498	418	Lloyds†	2155	+ 11	4.3	12.0
522	472	Nat Aust Bk	492	- 3	3.7	9.4
491	451	Nat West	468	+ 9	4.8	9.6
3888	2199	Ottoman Bank	2135		0.0	
79	57	Rea Bros	68		1.5	17.4
1528	1379	Rea Bros 'A'	1379		1.5	14.8
1597	1050	Schroders	1535	- 3	4.3	11.3
1458	1043	Schroders NV	1365		1.7	12.5
114	75	Singer & Fried	85		4.7	10.8
359½	223	Standard Chart	2936	- 2	3.1	8.8
291	197	TSB	256	- 2	4.7	9.8
1012	588	Wardley Sb	711	- 15	3.9	13.0
9885	6812½	Wells Fargo	9895½	+ 12½	2.9	
298	194	Yorkshire	229½	- 2½	2.5	
390	283	Whitbread	328	- 4½	6.0	14.7

BREWERIES

1025	150	Allied Lyons	154				
678	465	Bass	513	- 2	5.1	12.7
288	243	Beddington	246		4.2	13.2
198	168	Burtonwd Brwr	171		3.7	14.3
181	157	Burridge P 'A'	157		2.1	20.6
4	4½	Fosters Brewing	4½			
4563	3235	Fstr Sn 'A'	3535		2.5	14.0
511	434	Greenalls Sgd	445		3.6	13.7
394	288	Greene King	365		3.5	12.6
287	239	Hawtn Hanovr	239		3.5	12.7
178	135	Hiscoxs	156		4.5	12.7
3773	3125	Holt J	3388		1.8	18.6
248	196	Marstons	224		2.5	14.3
314	235	Morlnd Tomp	270		2.7	13.5
545	436	Morland	445		3.0	14.4
16½	8½	Pentremawr	7		3.6	16.1
329	268	Regnt Inns	319	+ 12	2.3	18.1
1666½	1000	Scot & Nwcle	1481½	+ 35	2.8	23.1
591	477	Shed & Wise	580	- 2	3.0	14.4
306	212	Vaux Group	218		5.6	12.3
491	324½	Wetherspoon D	463	- ½	1.8	25.5
1044	681	Whitbread	1037		4.5	14.7
586	446	Whitbread A	578	+ 1	4.5	14.7
288	148	Yates Brewr	150	+ 1	3.4	12.5
535	450	Young 'A'	450		4.1	18.5

BUILDING & CONSTRUCT

205	130	Abbeyn†	130		5.0	9.5
200	143	Allen	156		4.4	14.6
154	95	Amec	96	- 3	6.7	32.3
167	82	Andrews Sykes	167			
482	333	Ashtead	422		1.7	19.0
191	97½	Ashtenne	190		5.6	11.5
41	28	Bailey (Geo) Con	35		2.5	21.4
2	1½	Barcon	1½			
282	139	Barrat Dvlps	139	+ 4	4.7	12.3
169	122	Beazer Homes	129	+ 1	3.1	12.9
183	134	Bellway	156	+ 1	4.4	11.7
59	31	Bellwnch	35	- 1	0.7	38.6
373	317	Berkeley Gp	317	- 1	2.8	10.1
215	118	Bett Bros	178		3.2	8.5
252	218	Bovis (Henry)	223		3.7	11.0
265	35	Bramdn Hse	121	- 2	1.5	7.5
288	130	Br Bldg & Eng	130		7.7	8.1
197½	165	Brown (N)	197	- 1	6.8	10.3
145½	98	CALA	105		3.3	14.5
54	31	Campbell & Ann	34	+ 1		
62	44	Clarke T	52		3.0	44.1
2	1½	Costain	2½			
165	100	Countryside	100		5.4	12.3
130	93	Crest Nicholson	98	- 1	3.3	
84	61	Crostons	74	- 1	2.1	10.1
30	17	Edmond Hdgs	18		2.1	
473	236	Fve Group†	243		5.7	9.9
64	24	Galliford	27		4.6	
117	95	Gibbs & Dandy	97		9.8	
1928	852	Glenvale (UK)	863		4.6	14.8
86	71	Green (Ernest)	84		8.9	25.9
197	121	Hawtock Euro	197		1.9	18.0
168	138	Hawtn-Stwrt	150		2.5	17.2
144	83	Higgs & Hill	85		3.7	
22	19	Howard Hdgs	19		5.3	17.7
9	6	Hunns	9			
136	103	Keller	105	- 5	4.5	12.2
248	190	Laing (J)	190	- 5	5.9	17.2
164	86	Laing (Lrds Cr Pf	89		8.0	
145	115	Lon Chatsdlgt	117		5.7	
173	145	Lovell (TA)	46		2.8	5.5
253	196	Maunders (J)	205		3.4	12.3
423	321	McAlpine (A)	157	- 7	5.2	23.0
78½	50½	McCarthy & S	53			18.7
64	51	Morgan Sindall	53	+ 2	0.2	
185½	93	Morrlsn (J)	93	- 1	3.7	
379½	170	Persimmon	177		8.5	13.3
2400	1474	Pochin	2000		4.5	12.8
196	114	Ransg	114	-	3.9	17.4
116	44½	Rines Ind	56	- ½	7.5	10.4
61	45	Sacare Rebs	47	+ 1		15.2
132	93	Redrow	96	- ½	3.6	9.5
57	39	Scott-Bdr	55		1.7	26.9
398	232	Scott Hdgs	380		1.3	15.3
714	624	Sherco	695		4.9	13.7
345	195	Smart (J)	295		3.2	21.5
288	195½	Spencer	288	+ 15	1.6	23.2
257	191	Sy Homes	257		3.1	20.8
1	114½	Taylor Woodrw	122	- 2	3.6	25.8
788	488	Tilbury Dougls	488	- 10	6.5	37.4
63	36	Tarmac Hldgs	60		2.9	21.0
40½	19	Ty Group	19		3.5	
49	19	Vibroplant	19		4.4	19.2
170	110	Wimpey	116		5.6	11.9
74	46	Ward Hdgs	58		3.3	
225½	123	Westbury	124		5.4	11.3
7½	3½	Wiggins	4½			
269	131	Wilson (C)	131	- 4.0	10.9	
371	311	Wilson Bowdn	314	- 2	3.8	14.0
249	113	Wimpey G	122½	- 1½	5.4	18.3

BUSINESS SERVICES

3½	1½	Anglo Utd	1½			
110	68	Apg Hsln	70			
186	107	Abacus	118		5.3	
7	4½	Bailey (CH)	7½			
48	39	Black Arrow	43		9.9	8.9
124	70	Br Bloodstock	79			10.8
13	5½	Cand Gp	5½			18.4
10½	4	Clement	4		2.1	10.8
157	109	Cossil	141		7.1	8.5
257	186	Filtrtst	227		1.1	10.5
39	26	Hadley	38		2.7	25.7
282	234	Hunstock	268		3.5	12.9
248	152	Leigh	152		3.6	14.7
274	214	Nat Stock Exn	227		3.4	14.8
310	207	Photo-Me†	232	- 1	2.6	22.5
69	38	Prest & Gen	56		4.0	
12½	2½	Profin Group	2½			
51½	5½	Rentokil	9			
345	195	Sherg	195		3.3	
288	195½	Spectr	288	+ 15	1.6	23.2
257	191	Sy Homes	257		3.1	20.8
1	114½	Taylor Woodrw	122	- 2	3.6	25.8
788	488	Tilbury Dougls	488	- 10	6.5	37.4
63	36	Tarmac Hldgs	60		2.9	21.0
40½	19	Ty Group	19		3.5	
49	19	Vibroplant	19		4.4	19.2
170	110	Wimpey	116		5.6	11.9
74	46	Ward Hdgs	58		3.3	
225½	123	Westbury	124		5.4	11.3
7½	3½	Wiggins	4½			
269	131	Wilson (C)	131	- 4.0	10.9	
371	311	Wilson Bowdn	314	- 2	3.8	14.0
249	113	Wimpey G	122½	- 1½	5.4	18.3

CHEMICALS

156½	114	Allied Colloids	114	- 1	2.8	16.1
790	715	Amber Ind	788		3.4	15.5
£141½	£105½	BASF DM	£136½	- 2½	3.5	
767	527	BOC	716	- 11	4.3	17.1
365½	237	BTP	297	- 3	5.7	13.4
£160½	£122½	Bayer DM50	£154½	- 1.25	5.1	
171	97	Blagden	111		4.7	
131	98	Brent Chems	123		4.2	16.0
289	215	Br Vita	253			
45	18	Cambridge Iso	35		1.9	32.0
199	153	Canning (W)	189	+ 1	4.8	28.5
491	401	Chemikalia	417½	- 4½	4.5	28.5
369	227	Croda	342	- 3	3.1	14.7
143	95	Dualite	126		4.5	12.9
74	53½	Exm Colour A	74		2.9	21.4
146	110	Elementis	118		5.8	10.9
148	118	Fobrchm	133	- 2	7.5	11.9
£152½	£106½	Hoechst	£139½	- 1.75	3.8	
250	158½	Holliday Chem	207		3.7	16.9
868	708	ICI	728	- 2	5.3	8.9
191½	97½	Kalon	104½	- ½	7.0	11.3
843	632	Laporte	832	- 9	4.2	16.0
45	40	Mitchl	40		8.8	
265	208	Monsnto	211		4.6	16.1
127	100	McLaud Russel	114		4.4	12.4
138	38	Micrnsed	45		1.1	5.3
1778	1354½	Mycobiotics	1451	+ 17½	4.4	20.7
348	265	Ponahrt	300		2.0	
372	186	Scapa	192		3.5	15.5
66	17	Soltolite Speclt	19		4.6	11.3
857½	606	Tenchs Chem	736½	- 23½	6.2	19.5
490	362	Wardle Storeys	369		3.4	18.2
239	165	Wellington Hdg	188		3.2	16.1
823	570	Wernstone B	773		3.1	16.1
469	345	Yorks Chem	365	- 4	2.9	13.5
336	257	Yule Catto	269		3.2	19.7

DISTRIBUTORS

127	96	ABI Loc	98	- 2	5.3	11.0
317	246	Acal	308		2.6	16.7
586	253	Adam & Harvey	568		3.5	7.0
31	28	Alexandroff	28	- 1	8.0	16.1
173	88	Anglesey	88		8.0	16.1
6	3½	Ass Br Eng	4½		10.5	10.3
578	495	BSS Group	530		4.3	18.7
265	246	Bisnag Powell	254		5.5	11.5
465	346	Brierley Mtr	253		5.2	19.4
378	288	Bulgd 'A'	346		5.1	11.6
379	288	Bulmer	347	+ 1	4.7	19.3
31	15½	Bridgend Gp	19½	- 1½	1.3	76.2
97	57	Brit Polythn	89		3.8	
87	78	Brown & Tawse	84			
390	306	Bunzlnsn	358		6.3	12.4
266	206	Carlton	258		3.9	14.1
18	12	Carlton Pic	17		3.4	11.3
139	71	Central Mtr	71	- ½	4.2	34.1
51	32½	Cook (DC)	36		4.8	11.0
340½	197½	Corus	197½	- 2	5.2	11.8
1996	1527	Dly Telgrh	1536		2.9	18.2
265	215	Dickson	219	- 4	3.7	19.8
414½	276½	Dimension	283	- 4	3.5	15.2
2220	1230	Dixons	1444	- 2	7.6	16.4
3754½	2200	Dobson 'B'	3240½	- 12½	3.3	8.4
39½	21	Evans	30		0.4	
4040½	2737½	Ericsson 'B'	3693½	+ 9½	1.3	15.2
86	58	Exmouth†	66	+ ½	3.6	13.2
451	343	Farn(Brit)	402	- 11	1.7	20.7
410	334½	Fairey Group	365		2.0	13.8
280	180	Forward Gp	247		2.5	15.2
58	14½	Forward Tech	45		2.1	9.3
353½	259	GEC†	3566½	+ ½	4.8	14.1
191	102	Gestetner	115	- ½	2.6	
191	119	Glossop	144		5.2	13.5
193	121	Ind Control	141		4.4	11.9
385	263	Kenwood Appl	265		4.3	13.1
1205½	730	Kershaw (A)	1205		3.5	9.8
165	38	Kode	39½		7.7	
488	357	Kollmrgn	463	- 7	5.2	22.5
465½	452	Powell Duffryn	462		6.8	13.6
164	118½	Rogner	155		7.5	14.2
488	357	Rollmrgn	463	- 7	5.2	22.5
348	9½	Saltire	15			5.7
183½	165	Sims Darby	178	- 1	3.2	17.6
257	154	Staveley	156	- 1	6.4	11.1
288	220	Syltr	226	- 1	7.5	13.0
288	220	TT Group	226		2.3	
283	202	Tomkinsn	226	- 3	4.3	14.5
134	62½	Towngar Ht	66	- 1	1.9	
248	245	Unclon	245		6.1	17.7
324	249½	Wassall	265	- 1	3.7	27.8
13½	9¼	Wilcnsn†	9¼		2.6	15.1
414½	309	Williams Hldg	319	- 6	5.1	18.7

ELECTRICITY

894½	810½	East Midlandst	751	- 13	4.6	31.6
866	665	Eastern Elect	785	- 13	4.2	16.0
785	594	London Elect	744	- 13	4.1	11.4
1035	825	Manweb†	845	- 14	4.0	10.1
845½	547	Midlands Elect	772	- 12	4.0	11.8
1201	934½	Midland Power	1120	+ 8	3.7	11.6
1130	988	Northern Elect	1120	+ 8	3.7	11.6
421	329	Nthn Ireland†	356	+ 2	4.2	9.8
697	567	Norweb	693	- 15	3.7	9.9
682	449	Powergen	583	+ 8	3.7	10.9
477	307	Hydro-Elect†	311	- 4	5.7	8.8
488	359	Scottish Power†	323	- 6	5.0	10.2
490	358	Seeboard	447	- 17	3.5	12.2
511	391	Sth Wstrn†	494	- 19	3.6	11.5
897	746	Southern Elec	753	- 12	4.0	10.9
909	604½	Yorkshire Elec	856	- 18	4.1	14.7

ELECTRONIC & ELECT

109	63	Acorn Comp	95			
659	478	Admiral	635		1.2	19.5
200	163	Alba	200		3.2	15.5
283	126½	Amstrad	156½	- 3	2.1	
39	24	Arlen	37			
94½	77	Autec	79½	+ ½	1.4	16.3
218	116	Aztec	123	- 3	3.6	9.9
478	287	BICC	336	+ 2	7.2	21.2
283	238	Brdcs Herbert	241		5.1	12.9
16	7	Bsksdlw Bss	9			
535	402	Bwtch	454	- 1	3.2	15.3
350	290	Bowthorpe	310½	- ½	2.8	17.9
21½	14½	Bulgin (A) 'A'	19		1.6	11.1
263	194	CML Micro	194		3.9	12.4
67	32	Channel Hdgs	36		4.1	18.8
95½	20	Colorvis	20½		0.6	56.1
85	60	Clayhithe	63		5.3	
188	81	Copyvaire	150		3.6	
202	143½	Coty (UK)	148½	- 3½	2.2	16.7
478	412	Criticlby	478	- 3	2.2	20.0
410	269	Data Sc Sys	358	- 10	0.6	45.8
586	430	Data Sys	461	- 8	4.0	19.7
565	400	Dowlais†	527		2.3	
78	63	Dowding Mills	67		4.8	24.4
1655	1220	Dsourt	1509		0.8	25.5
3754½	2200	Dubilier 'B'	3240½	- 12½	3.3	
39½	21	Evans	30		0.4	
4040½	2737½	Ericsson 'B'	3693½	+ 9½	1.3	15.2
86	58	Exmouth†	66	+ ½	3.6	13.2
451	343	Farn(Brit)	402	- 11	1.7	20.7
410	334½	Fairey Group	365		2.0	13.8
280	180	Forward Gp	247		2.5	15.2
58	14½	Forward Tech	45		2.1	9.3
353½	259	GEC†	3566½	+ ½	4.8	14.1
191	102	Gestetner	115	- ½	2.6	
191	119	Glossop	144		5.2	13.5
193	121	Ind Control	141		4.4	11.9
385	263	Kenwood Appl	265		4.3	13.1
1205½	730	Kershaw (A)	1205		3.5	9.8
165	38	Kode	39½		7.7	
488	357	Kollmrgn	463	- 7	5.2	22.5
465½	452	Powell Duffryn	462		6.8	13.6
164	118½	Rogner	155		7.5	14.2
488	357	Rollmrgn	463	- 7	5.2	22.5
348	9½	Saltire	15			5.7
183½	165	Sims Darby	178	- 1	3.2	17.6
257	154	Staveley	156	- 1	6.4	11.1
288	220	Syltr	226	- 1	7.5	13.0
288	220	TT Group	226		2.3	
283	202	Tomkinsn	226	- 3	4.3	14.5
134	62½	Towngar Ht	66	- 1	1.9	
248	245	Unclon	245		6.1	17.7
324	249½	Wassall	265	- 1	3.7	27.8
13½	9¼	Wilcnsn†	9¼		2.6	15.1
414½	309	Williams Hldg	319	- 6	5.1	18.7

ENGINEERING

185	119	Abbey	185			3.0	
138	47½	AFV	51½			8.9	
216	148½	ASW	185			4.0	
126	20½	Aero Hamble	34			13.7	3.4
215	14	Aerospace Eqt	16½	- ½		2.7	
73	27½	Aktiv	27			2.9	
175	134	Ash & Lacy	135½			5.0	18.4
553	480	Atlas Equip	553			5.0	14.7
135	85	Ayrshire Metal	130			16	
49½	26	Babcock	30				
178	130	BHI	130			6.4	19.9
84	64	Baynes (Charles)	78			2.8	20.0
110	84	Bilton (J)	117			5.7	7.3
328	262	Bodycote	314	- 2		2.1	21.4
97	43	Booth Inds	80	- 1			
28	13½	Bronzegf	14½			4.6	13.7
171	120	Bddan	148			3.4	
576½	385½	Br Aerospace	472	- 7		2.4	41.5
172½	121½	Br Steel	157½	- 2½		2.8	18.4
125	85½	Bromsgrve Indl	90			6.3	15.1
18½	9	Brooke Tool†	15½	- ½			1.0
51	24½	Bryant	45½				
186	126	Bellbnght	152			3.9	
91	58	Burndy†	75			3.1	32.2
24	14	C I Group	16				
288	247	Cardo Eqpt	256			5.1	15.6
158	110	Castings	153			2.3	18.6
230	150	Chamberlin Hll	150			5.6	9.5
290	172	Chewring	254	- 1		3.6	15.2
378	276	Clyde Blowers	378	- 1		3.2	
337	235	Cohens	308			3.2	15.4
488	403	Coln (A)	488			4.2	14.6
253	178	Concentric	253			4.1	10.7
310	238	Cook (Wm)	238			3.8	15.2
396	298	David Brown	215			3.6	15.2
97	69	Dobson Park	69			6.8	12.8
362	345	EIS	345			4.5	13.9
31	21	ESE	21			2.7	13.8
88	60	Expamet	88	+ 1		3.6	63.8
212	141½	FKI	143	- 1		3.7	16.4
148	109	Ferrnx	133			1.4	61.9
45	17	Fenton	17	- 1			
73	53	GEI Int	58			3.5	16.1
134	91	Garton Eng	129			4.8	
404	295	Gaymad	399	- 2		2.5	17.9
94½	10	Geeststone	12			5.6	10.1
85	61	Haden MacLn	61	- 2½		4.1	15.8
156	90	Hadleigh	153			2.0	17.4
330	143	Hall Eng	144			7.0	11.3
256	191	Halma	192			1.7	20.8
81	79	Hampson Ind†	82	- 1		4.9	9.7
88	25	Hay (Norman)	25	- 2			
122	91	Hall & Scaliff	105			5.2	
69	39	Hopkinsons	58			2.8	
41	27	How Gp	27			2.7	
103	78	Hyndlm	78	- 1		4.0	12.8
157	77	Hunting	169			7.4	24.1
379	286	IMI	302			4.2	22.6
51	33½	Jessmon & Fb	40½				
628	468	Johnson Matth	528½	-		2.9	19.8
30	25	Jones Chapman	30				
265	200	Kelsey Ind†	317			5.1	
271	205	Lucas	271			3.2	16.9

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

202	148	Advanc	156	- 1	6.0	15.9
380	199½	Amalgamtd	303		5.5	24.5
62	44	Amcor	44		5.3	9.1
397	273½	Boden Hll	357	- 5	2.4	18.0
401	273	BTR	389½	- 1½	3.2	16.1
570	372	BAT	422	- 10	6.1	11.0
297	173½	Barchrist Ind'V	232	+ 3	0.3	61.4
91	49	Bibby (J)	85	- 2	4.4	15.8
414	314	Bibby Inv	405	- ½	9.2	2.6
536	396½	Charter	785	- 2	3.7	19.8
265	215	Cookson	218	- 4	3.7	19.8
263	201	Dowding Mlls	257	- 4	4.8	24.4
1655	1220	Dsourt	1509		0.8	25.5
3754½	2200	Dubilier 'B'	3240½	- 12½	3.3	
39½	21	Evans	30		0.4	
4040½	2737½	Ericsson 'B'	3693½	+ 9½	1.3	15.2
86	58	Exmouth†	66	+ ½	3.6	13.2
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134	62½	Towngar Ht	66	- 1	1.9	
248	245	Unclon	245		6.1	17.7
324	249½	Wassall	265	- 1	3.7	27.8
13½	9¼	Wilcnsn†	9¼		2.6	15.1
414½	309	Williams Hldg	319	- 6	5.1	18.7

ENGINEERING. VEHICLES

66	31	AAF Ind	35			
169	108	Alnfrw Smeth	159		3.1	15.6
6338	4480	Avon Rubber†	4485	+ 4	4.6	16.0
2	1½	BBA	1½	- ½	2.6	
865	575	BSG	752	- 2	7.5	32.8
18½	8½	Barcon Group	11		4.0	14.9
306	180	Bedmon	287	+ 1	2.5	16.9
353	275	Bhr	353		4.0	
408	298	Fist Techt	398

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c.£70,000 + SIGNIFICANT BONUS

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Our Client is a rapidly expanding European investment management company with offices in the UK, Switzerland and Germany. In less than three years, it has quickly gained a reputation for an innovative approach to global fund management, offering its institutional client base the opportunity to participate in new and highly profitable markets.

The Company seeks to appoint a talented and independent lawyer with responsibility for the Group's legal affairs across Europe. Based in London, the role is a challenging and exciting one and encompasses:

- close liaison with clients on a range of legal and commercial issues;
- complex problem solving, drafting and negotiation;
- SFA/compliance issues;
- appointing, liaising with and monitoring external Counsel;
- working with the Company's specialists to market its products in the UK, USA and Europe.

The ideal candidate, either in private practice or industry, will be highly motivated and technically able with no less than three years' experience of, for example, investment management, compliance/SFA issues, derivatives and offshore funds. Willingness and ability to participate in marketing initiatives and product development are also fundamental.

In return, the Company is able to offer a salary and benefits package significantly in excess of the market rate as well as opportunities for overseas travel.

For further information, in complete confidence, please contact **Andrew Russell** on **071-377 0510** (071-622 6213) evenings/weekends) or write to him at **Zarak Macrae Brenner**, Recruitment Consultants, 37 Sun Street, London EC2M 2PY. *Confidential fax: 071 247 5174. Internet e-mail* **andrew@zmb.co.uk**

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SPRING VACANCIES

CO PARTNER DESIGNATE — **£EXCELLENT**
Established medium-sized City firm with strong company and corporate finance practice seeks to appoint additional partner designate. Ideal candidate will be aged 32-38 years and have a strong corporate background, preferably from a firm with a leading reputation for this type of work. This represents an unusual opportunity to take a leading role in a rapidly developing area of the firm's practice. First rate working environment and support and competitive remuneration. (Ref.4244)

IT PARTNER DESIGNATE — **£60-80,000**
Entrepreneurial medium-sized London firm with good quality contentious IP, telecoms and media practice groups seeks to fill "gap" with a senior IT specialist at or just below partner level. Successful candidate will have a sound grounding in non-contentious IP/IT, in particular computer and technology contracts, software licensing and IT protection. Commercial approach essential but following not. (Ref.4082)

COMPETITION — **TO £50,000**
Profitable and well regarded medium-sized City practice seeks 3-4 year qualified competition lawyer with particular emphasis on UK mergers. High profile group with top quality work and international client base. Rare opportunity to join firm renowned for high standards and for its attention to individual career progression. Medium-term prospects excellent. (Ref.4276)

PENSIONS/EMP BENEFITS — **£FLEXIBLE**
Medium-sized London firm with excellent reputation in the IP sphere and an expanding all round commercial practice seeks to make key first time appointment of a pensions/employee benefits specialist. Ideal candidate will have a minimum of 5 years' pqe and a strong background in pensions, employee benefits or mainstream employment work. A following is desirable but not essential as there are excellent opportunities to cross-sell to existing clients. Position could be either full or part time. (Ref.4242)

JUNIOR BANKING — **TO £30,000**
Leading City firm with well regarded and expanding banking practice seeks additional junior assistant at the 0-1 year level (outstanding March 1995 qualifiers will be considered). Mix of work is challenging and varied and encompasses all aspects of mainstream banking and syndicated lending. Exciting opportunity to join a young, highly talented but informal, relaxed team. (Ref.3955)

BANKING — **£PARTNER DESIGNATE**
Leading City firm with highly regarded banking and capital markets practice seeks senior assistant for key partner designate role. Successful candidate will relish the opportunity of a new challenge, offering excellent prospects in the short term. He/she will ideally have a first rate academic background and training and be at a firm with a reputation for excellence in this type of work. Unusual opportunity to break free from the partnership bottleneck. (Ref.4081)

EMPLOYMENT MIX — **TO £48,000**
Employment Group in busy and well established medium-sized City firm seeks further assistant, 2-5 years qualified, to join high profile team. Work is an interesting mix of contentious and non-contentious with the opportunity for immediate responsibility in a relaxed working environment. Demonstrable communication skills essential, together with hands-on experience of drafting. (Ref.4247)

CONSTRUCTION LIT — **TO £41,000**
Medium-sized London firm with prestigious dedicated construction group seeks litigator at 2-4 year level. Work is mainly on behalf of contractors and will comprise both High Court disputes and arbitration. International client base and opportunity for real involvement in marketing the group from an early stage. (Ref.4254)

BANKING 2-4 — **£TOP CITY**
2-4 year qualified banking lawyer sought by top ten City firm to strengthen the existing department. Excellent opportunity for a lawyer with solid post-qualification experience and good academic history to advise an impressive portfolio of banking clients. Work will include domestic lending and liaising closely with other specialist banking groups in the firm. This is an opportunity to join an organisation renowned for its supportive environment for employees. (Ref.3859)

PROPERTY LITIGATION — **TO £36,000**
Busy property litigation group of large Central London practice seeks specialist litigator to handle mix of work on behalf both institutional and retail clients. Caseload will include disputes under the LTA, contested possession proceedings, insolvency, forfeiture and injunctive work. With at least 2-3 years' experience, applicants must have an excellent academic background and the ability to relate effectively with clients. (Ref.4158)

The above represents a small selection of the vacancies presently registered with us. To find out more, in complete confidence, please contact Lisa Hicks, Miranda Smyth or Andrew Russell (all qualified lawyers) on 071-377 0510 (071-733 1815 evening/weekends) or write to us at Zarak Macrae Brenner, Recruitment Consultants, 37 Sun Street, London EC2M 2PY. Confidential fax 071-247 5174. Internet e-mail lisa@zmb.co.uk

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COMMERCIAL/IP LAWYER

HARBOTTLE & LEWIS

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Harbottle & Lewis's clients include leading individuals and companies involved internationally in businesses such as film, television, telecommunications, cable, satellite, radio, theatre, music and advertising as well as interactive and digital information and entertainment.

The company and commercial department requires an additional solicitor, probably 2 to 5 years qualified, to deal with a wide range of work, some with a high intellectual property content, including multimedia and print publishing.

Candidates must be technically strong and have a good academic record, together with a commitment to work with clients in media, communications and entertainment. Experience in one or more of the information technology, media, entertainment and communications industries is desirable. A practical and commercial approach is essential. The successful candidate will be integral to the development of the practice.

Interested candidates should send a CV to **Deborah Sherry** or **Pippa Curtis**, Douglas Llambias Associates, 410 Strand, London WC2R 0NS or fax 071 379 4820 quoting reference T210295.

DOUGLAS LLAMBIAS RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

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Rapidly expanding, the Ashurst Morris Crisp Media and Communications Group advises clients on all national, regional and international commercial, regulatory and policy issues.

The Group's clientele includes leading companies in telecommunications, cable, satellite, TV, video, film and music industries, and the immediate business need is to strengthen the team on the media side. We are therefore looking to recruit, and more than one candidate may be required to fulfil our needs.

You will have gained between two and four years' qualified experience in private practice or industry, and your expertise will embrace a range of high profile film, TV and video production and distribution work, in addition to the legal regime relevant to interactive information and entertainment services. A sound understanding of copyright law is required. A knowledge of European audio visual policy issues and experience of music recording agreements would be an advantage, as would foreign language skills.

This is an exceptional opportunity to play an increasingly responsible role in the growth of the Group, serving a global industry in a fast changing commercial environment.

ASHURST MORRIS CRISP

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For further information, please contact **Hugh Kelly** or **Mark Field** on 0171 588 7878 (0171 351 6832 evenings/weekends) or write to them at **Kellyfield Consulting**, Second Floor, Moor House, 119 London Wall, London EC2Y 5ET (fax: 0171 588 7020). This campaign is being handled on an exclusive basis by **Kellyfield Consulting**.

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We are now looking for an exceptional person to lead the Council's Core Legal Unit. You will be a first class Solicitor with a thorough knowledge of local government law. You will have the highest professional standards. You will have the ability to think on your feet and provide coherence in a highly charged political environment. You will be a person who finds solutions rather than problems, who is committed both to empowering staff and making things happen and to our core values of customer first *and service quality.*

If you have the qualities to rise to this challenge we want to hear from you

- **For a job pack and application form please contact Vanessa Mallett on 0181-937 1292.**
- **For further information, or an informal discussion telephone Roger Hamilton, Solicitor to the Council, on 0181-937 1310 or Tony Elliston, Executive Director, Central Services, on 0181-937 1300.**
- **The closing date for applications will be 8th March 1995.**

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Corporate Finance and Banking

US Law Firm

to £150,000 +

Our client is a major US-based international law firm with a rapidly growing European Practice encompassing offices in England, Italy and Switzerland and with a special emphasis on international and European *corporate finance and banking transactions.*

With a view to expanding its well-established London office, our client is now committed to make a strategic appointment at Senior Associate or Partner level where the successful candidate will play a pivotal role in the development of the Practice.

The firm is seeking to invest in a lawyer with the following attributes:

- Between 8 and 15 years' post qualification experience in complex international corporate finance and banking transactions.
- Strong partnership potential demonstrated through extensive experience in leading legal and financial teams in structuring, negotiating, and executing complex financial transactions.
- Transactional experience including M&As, joint ventures, debt and equity offerings (both public and private), privatisations, financial reorganisations, commercial loan syndications, and project finance transactions. Capital markets exposure would also be highly valuable.
- Strong contacts in the UK and European financial and business communities and the ambition to take a leading role in expanding the corporate finance and banking practice of the London office.
- Extremely strong client relationship and practice management skills and high energy levels; commitment to developing a growing practice which may offer a significant amount of travel. European language skills would also be of benefit.

A transportable book of business is attractive, however, the ability to create and maintain new business opportunities in the UK and Europe is a top priority.

The salary package is highly competitive, reflecting the importance of this appointment.

This assignment is being handled exclusively by *Michael Page Legal.*

Interested candidates should forward their curriculum vitae (including contact number and details of current salary and benefits package) to Sarah Gore BA LLB, Solicitor at Michael Page Legal, Page House, 39-41 Parker Street, London WC2B 5LH, fax 0171 831 6662 or telephone her on 0171 831 2000.

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CIVIL LITIGATION - Wilts - Busy and profitable prac seek bright and ambitious qual NQ 2yrs for range of cases incl some crime. Real prospects. Call Alan Witcher at Macdonald & Company on 01747 828337 (Agy)

CONTRACTS/ COMMERCIAL - Herts - Young (40ish) partner with quality work seeks assistant NQ - 36 mths. Offers autonomy, training and a challenge. Call on 01747 828337 (Macdonald & Company) Agy

LITIGATOR required by well-established Walthamstow solicitors must have adequate experience in all fields of litigation including matrimonial. Will be acting as Assistant to the Principal but will also have his/her own caseload. This is a new position which will be challenging and with good prospects. Write with full C.V. to Leslie Wilmer, G. Houghton & Son, 294-298 Hoe Street, Walthamstow, London E17 9PJ

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BARRISTER (presently non-practising) with 2 yrs PQE, including work in overseas firm. Decent French and Italian and intending to take Law Society transfer test, seeks position with firm of solicitors. Fax 010 41 91 691602 (Switzerland) or write to box no 3958

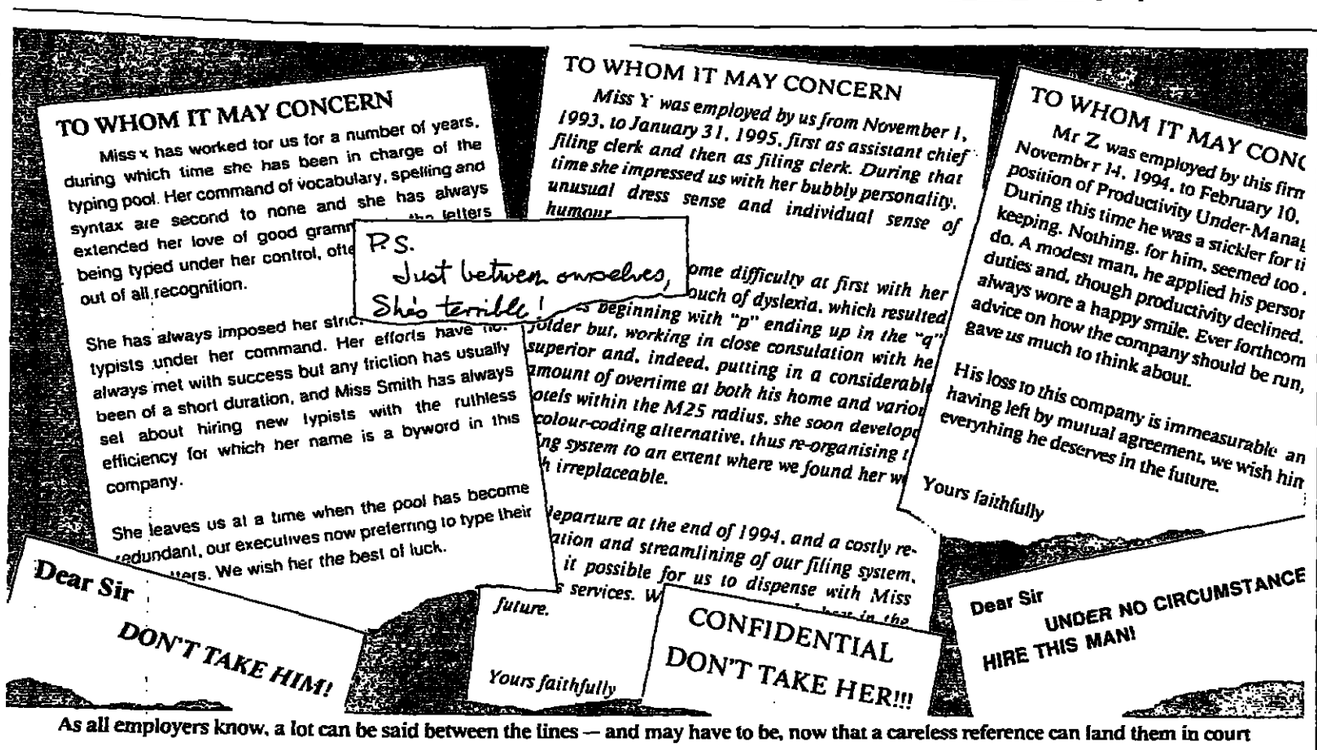
BUSINESS STUDIES Graduate with City experience seeks training contract, CPE and LPC completed. Box No 3548

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LAW

● AMERICAN STINGS 35
● LAW REPORT 36



As all employers know, a lot can be said between the lines — and may have to be, now that a careless reference can land them in court

Troubled references

If a former employer does not take care what he says about you in a reference, you may have a case against him, says **Gillian Howard**

John was an investment analyst in the City until he fell out with his boss and had to leave his highly paid job. He could not get another position because each time a contract was offered, it was withdrawn because of an "unsatisfactory reference".

John (whose anonymity *must be protected*) started legal proceedings against his former director and company for slander and negligence. He had lost the chance of two lucrative contracts with City investment houses.

John's former boss could not understand how John had any evidence of slander. He did not know that one of the prospective employers who had phoned for a reference was a friend of John's and had taped the conversation.

In another case, when Graham Spring was summarily dismissed from his job as insurance salesman for selling an unsuitable policy to a prospective customer, he thought he would have no trouble finding another job. But Scottish Amicable would have nothing to do with him after receiving his reference, and neither would two other employers. Under the insurance industry's rules (the regulatory body is now the Personal Investment Authority), all employers must provide a "full and frank" reference on their former insurance sales staff, when requested by another employer in the insurance business.

Mr Spring, who found it impossible to get another job although he tried for two years, found to his shock and dismay that his two bosses at Guardian Assurance had written a *highly critical reference* concerning his abilities as a sales representative. They accused him of "mis-selling" and concluded by stating that he was a "man of little or no integrity and coud not be regarded as honest". As Judge Lever in the High Court put it, this reference was "so strikingly bad as to amount to the 'kiss of death' to his career in insurance".

Mr Spring sued Guardian Assurance for four separate claims: for negligence — breach of its duty to take reasonable care when preparing an employment reference — libel, malicious falsehood and breach of the implied term in his contract that any reference written would be prepared with reasonable care.

> A former employer could be sued for negligence

For two years, Mr Spring battled it out in the courts until finally last year the House of Lords gave him victory — at least, on the issue of being given a negligent reference. His other claims for malicious falsehood and libel failed because he could not prove malice. The law lords held, contrary to the Court of Appeal, that employers *do* owe a duty of care towards former employees when preparing and writing a reference and can be sued if they breach this duty of care.

Previously, it had been thought that employers owed a duty of care only to the recipient of a reference, not to the subject of it. The Lords has made it crystal clear that they owe the same duty of care to both.

In Mr Spring's case, the Lords agreed with him that his employers had acted negligently in writing an inaccurate and careless reference which caused him significant financial loss. The Court of Appeal now has to decide on the amount of damages.

Judge Lever in the High Court had concluded after hearing the evidence that Mr Spring "was a fool but not a rogue". The references claimed he was dishonest and could not be trusted. The High Court had held that that was a negligent mis-statement for which the employer should be held liable. The Court of Appeal had disagreed, preferring the view that employers owe a duty of care only to the recipient of a reference and not to the subject of it.

The implications are wide. Though Mr Spring's case concerned an employer who by law must give a reference, the Lords' ruling applies to all employers whether they provide a reference because they are legally bound to do so or because they do so voluntarily.

The lessons for employers are that if they prepare and send an inaccurate reference that subsequently harms the ex-employee's employment prospects, they will be in breach of their duty of care and liable to be sued for negligence. Since employers owe a duty of care not to cause physical injuries to their staff, the Lords could not see why employers should not also owe their employees a duty of care not to cause them economic injury. And if through sheer carelessness in preparing the reference, they deprive those employees of the means of earning their livelihood, the employers should be made to compensate the employees for their losses.

The Lords concluded that the duty of care lay firmly with an employer to take care in compiling or giving a reference and in verifying the information on which it is based. So it will be critically important for a draft reference to be written by the person(s) for whom the employee worked and for the reference to be checked by the personnel department.

How honest must employers be? Lord Slynn recognised that some bosses would be reluctant to give their honest opinions if former workers could sue them. He suggested a legal disclaimer, which would bind the employee and the prospective employer who, in consideration of the employer providing a reference, would agree not to sue on its terms.

However, with great respect to Lord Slynn, this could be caught by the Unfair Contract Terms Act 1977, section 2 (1). The Act permits only reasonable exclusions of liability in any action for negligence; is it reasonable for a damning expression of opinion which is inaccurate, spiteful and untrue to be covered by blanket immunity from legal action? This point waits to be tested.

Will this lead to fewer references? The Lords concluded that references form a key part of the recruitment process and that it was highly unlikely that as a result of the judgment, employers would be reluctant to write references. "References", they noted, "are too important a part of the employment relationship, benefiting employers and employees alike."

In the other case of "John", after the tape of the director's telephone reference was played back, the director asked how much John would accept as a settlement.

The sum agreed related to both defendants — the director and the firm, who were vicariously liable for the defamatory statement. The agreement contained a confidentiality clause binding John to silence — but his leval representative was not bound by the agreement. The settlement amounted to more than £100,000 plus all his legal costs — an expensive phone call.

● *The author, an employment lawyer, is a consultant with Mishcon de Reya.*

Calling all those who would be magistrates

JPs should come from much wider backgrounds

More than 30,000 people in England and Wales have the power to send you to prison. They do not need any legal qualifications, and once appointed, they have a job until they are 70.

Justices of the Peace, or lay magistrates, far outnumber any other category of person involved in the judicial process. They are unpaid and committed, and without them the magistrates' court system would break down. JPs also deal with liquor and betting licence applications, and sit with judges or recorders in the Crown Courts to hear appeals.

The public conceives a JP as a middle-aged, middle-class person who "knows the right people". Up to a point, this is true; it may well be the "right people" who suggest you apply to be a JP. But after that, you're on your own. Your application and references will be thoroughly vetted, and you will undergo a searching interview. However, if you are appointed, you will probably be nearer 40 than 30 — possibly older.



DEREK EDMUNDS

Why don't we see younger JPs? "Lack of maturity/experience" is usually given as the reason for not appointing many applicants in the 25 to 30 age group, but this begs the question of why comparatively few JPs are in their thirties or forties.

Since most defendants are under 40, why aren't there more JPs of a similar age? It is unlikely that the selection procedure is at fault — age is not a qualification *per se*. A more probable reason is that because this age group submits fewer applications, which may well be through lack of awareness. For example, did you know that you do not have to be nominated by someone else — you can nominate yourself? Why don't we see more "recruitment" advertising that emphasises this point? Perhaps the Lord Chancellor's Department thinks it would not be able to cope.

More probably, it is outside factors that inhibit younger applicants. JPs have to sit at least 26 times a year, plus "training days". How many people can take this kind of time off work? Will their employer pay them? Will they be passed over for promotion because they are "hardly ever there"? Employers do not take kindly to someone who wants to take off more than two days a month. Civic responsibility does not contribute to company profits. Nevertheless, employers should take the wider view and encourage service as a JP. Spinoff from this policy would be employees who have received training in analysing situations in a structured manner — a rarity in many firms.

If we grant that there is a preponderance of 40 to 60-year-olds on the bench, it is not surprising that many an 18-year-old driver considers the bench that fined him £100 for speeding were a bunch of old fogeys and that he has not had a hearing by his peers.

If you think *he* has a point, how do you think a young *black* person feels? Only about 6 per cent of newly appointed magistrates come from ethnic minorities, creating an enormous imbalance from the point of view of race.

In practice, the standard complement of three JPs in court ensures that an extremist view held by one member cannot decide the verdict. And, if such views *were* expressed by a JP, he or she could well be asked to resign. The lay magistracy is certainly not a breeding ground for any kind of racial bias.

But, as the adage that is repeated *ad nauseam* has it, "Justice must be seen to be done". And many a convicted defendant from an ethnic minority may feel that he or she did not have a fair hearing purely and simply because all the JPs were white. It won't be true, but that doesn't stop him or her from thinking it.

There is no easy answer as *to why ethnic minorities are* under-represented. It may be that many are in blue-collar jobs, and therefore cannot take time off work. Perhaps they feel that they will be out of place in an institution that is dominated by white people? Or do they fear rejection by their own people?

Nobody is suggesting that positive discrimination be practised in order to boost the number of JPs from ethnic minorities. But with constant criticism of the fact that there is a disproportionate number of such people in prison, surely it would be a positive step to encourage applications actively from ethnic minorities?

It cannot be emphasised too much that lay magistrates, whatever their age and social class, deal with all defendants "without fear or favour", as required by their oath. But they would still benefit from a leavening of younger people, and people from ethnic minorities. To achieve a proper and representative balance, these are the people who we should be actively encouraging to sit as JPs.

● *The author is a JP.*

Name that law firm

CAN there be a more appropriate name for a firm of solicitors wanting to promote a softer image than Mercy Messengers? It's the name of a two-partner firm in Solihull, both Messengers. Meanwhile, under a 1939 law recently upheld by Italy's highest court, a firm cannot continue to use the name of a deceased partner in its title. Apply that rule in Britain and Timothy Herbert-Smith, at Nabarro Nathanson, could demand any price he liked to join City firm Herbert Smith. Unless Martin Herbert-Smith, at Lovell White Durrant, beat him to it.

Join up

MARCH 1 is the last chance to apply to join industrial tribunals as a lay member. The Department of Employment is particularly encouraging applications from women, disabled people and people from ethnic minorities. Applicants should have recent practical experience of employee relations and be capable of acting impartially.

Pressed to pay

A MAGISTRATES' court is enlisting the public's help to recoup £1.5 million owed in fines and compensation to crime victims. It is publishing the names and addresses of more than 100 fine defaulters. The initiative by Hounslow Magistrates' Court, in which the names, date of birth and last known address of the defaulters are advertised, is part of its "rigorous enforcement programme".

INNS AND OUTS

Hear this

STEPHEN Grosz of Bindmans and Nigel Fleming, QC, the winning team in the judicial review against the Government over the Pergau dam affair, have notched up another success: they have won leave on behalf of Amnesty International (British section) to bring judicial review proceedings against the Radio Authority for its refusal to allow Amnesty to place an advertisement on independent radio stations. The ad was aimed at raising public awareness about prisoners of conscience and the families of people who have "disappeared". The authority refused on the ground that the ads would be political. But the lawyers argued the ads were not political in any party sense, nor aimed at any regime but based on a high moral principle. The hearing will be later this year.

● *MADELEINE May, CBE, who retired this year as International Bar Association executive director, has been appointed a consultant to Martindale-Hubbell, legal-directories publishers.*

Charity law

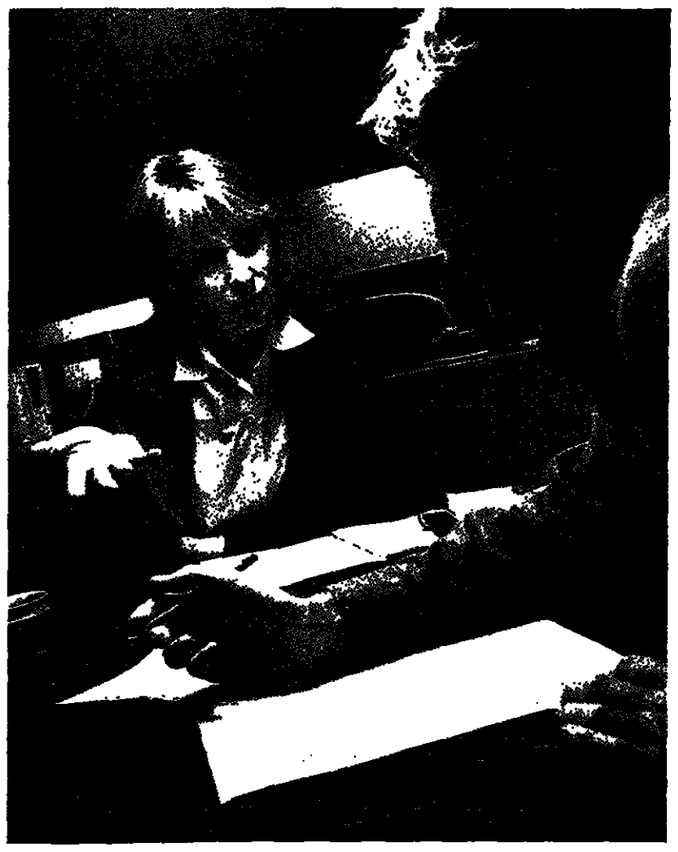
THE Association for Charity Lawyers, the University of Liverpool and the National Council for Voluntary Organisations are undertaking research into the need for a new incorporated legal structure for charities. As well as research into jurisdictions in France, Germany, Australia and New Zealand, the project will question a cross-section of charities on problems with existing legal structures.

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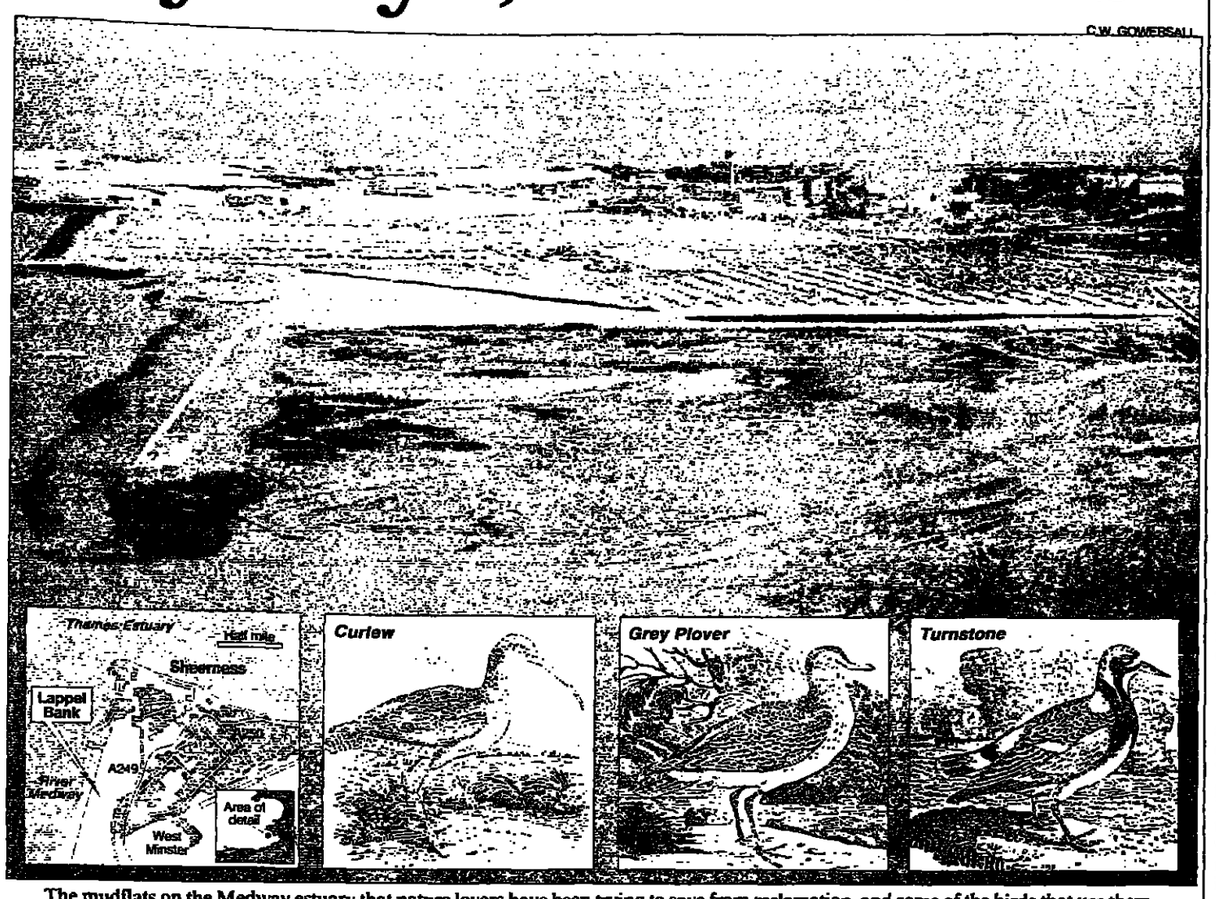
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MANCHESTER · LEEDS · SUNDERLAND

Legal

The fight for a mudflat may turn an environmental tide, says **Richard Buxton**

Bye bye, Bank birds



The mudflats on the Medway estuary that nature lovers have been trying to save from reclamation, and some of the birds that use them

When environmental groups go to court, they face two handicaps: fear of the cost, and something in the judicial psyche that cannot conceive of nature being superior to economic interests.

There have been few clearer examples of this than in the battles to save Lappel Bank on the Medway estuary in Kent from reclamation. However, the final decision on the bank, which will be given by the European Court of Justice (ECJ), may signal a turn in the tide.

If you are a wading bird, Lappel is the next best thing to heaven. It is a star among mudflats, hosting, for its size, more birds than the rest of the Medway. But it has the misfortune to be next to the expanding port of Sheerness, which wants it for a huge car and cargo park.

War began in 1990 when the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds claimed a flaw in the grant of permission for reclamation. The planning authority, Swale Borough Council, had not consulted the RSPB when it had said it would. The High Court, however, decided not to intervene. Part of the reasoning was that fresh consultation might well not affect the decision, while to interfere would cause the port financial loss. In fact, soon afterwards, a planning inquiry rejected, on environmental grounds, a string of related proposals.

In late 1993, the Government was finalising the boundaries of a special protection area (SPA) for birds on the Medway, which it had to establish under the European Union Birds Directive. It decided to exclude that half of Lappel Bank which had still not been reclaimed. John Gummer, the Secretary of State for the Environment, said the area was needed for port expansion on the economically depressed Isle of Sheppey. The RSPB claimed he could consider only whether Lappel Bank qualified from an ornithological point of view. He should set up the SPA; European law would allow development in due course, if necessary.

> The next decision will be crucial for conservation across Europe

The RSPB asked for a judicial review. As reclamation had started again in June 1994, the courts moved with commendable speed and the case was in the House of Lords by November 1994. Unfortunately, the courts had not been not so sympathetic with their rulings. Four judges, two in the Divisional Court and two in the Court of Appeal, could not accept that European law might not allow economic interest into the decision-making process. Lord Justice Hoffmann in the Court of Appeal agreed with the RSPB, saying the law was clear in its favour.

An immediate reference to the ECJ would normally be expected, especially when distinguished judges disagree so sharply about what European law means. But the Court of Appeal made the RSPB appeal to the House of Lords first.

It is not cheap going to the Lords. The nearer a final court of appeal, the more lawyers make sure that no stones remain unturned. The Lords make it no easier by demanding an interest-free deposit of £18,000 as security for the other side's costs. Rightly, they also require meticulously organised documents: but to allow public libraries a record of the legal history in the making, they also want a tree-eating number of copies.

So costs increase — including the exposure to paying the other side's costs if you lose. Even though judicial review cases tend to be less expensive than other litigation, this hard-to-estimate exposure often frightens litigants. Clients need resolve and reassurance.

The Lords recognised the need to refer the Lappel Bank dispute to the ECJ, but even they showed no sympathy for a delay in reclamation work. The RSPB had sought an interim ruling requiring the Secretary of State to review the project and allow it, provided it satisfied certain criteria set out in European law. The Lords would not make such a declaration; an important consideration for them was the possibility of financial loss to the port, or to the Government, without the RSPB undertaking to pay damages if it lost the case. Yet no charity can responsibly give such an undertaking. One day, the ECJ will probably be asked to rule whether it is lawful to require them to.

The Environment Secretary could himself choose to guard internationally important environments on their way to annihilation, pending the ECJ's decision. But that might cost money.

As the ECJ procedure is hard to accelerate — even with a request from the Lords for some priority, a decision will still take several months — Lappel Bank will probably be lost. However, the ECJ's decision will be crucial for conservation elsewhere in the UK and throughout Europe, where reluctant governments have been slow to establish SPAs, or have drawn them so as to allow for economic development.

If the ECJ supports the RSPB's stance, this will be a strong reminder to courts that the environment can rightly square up to economic interests. If courts became less instinctively protective, costs might fall and environmental groups might have more confidence in the law.

● *The author, an independent solicitor in Cambridge, practises environmental law and is acting for the RSPB over Lappel Bank.*

Eastern premises

Lawyers are this week trying to win custom in India and Lebanon

Leading London lawyers are taking part this month in key attempts to foster two contrasting overseas markets — India and Lebanon. Of most immediate commercial value is the current trade mission being led by Richard Needham, the Trade Minister, to India. Accompanying Mr Needham are lawyers from Simmons & Simmons, Linklaters & Paines, Freshfields, Ashurst Morris Crisp, as well as representatives of blue-chip financial institutions and industrial organisations.

The high point of the mission will be the Indo-British Multi-Sectoral Infrastructure Workshops taking place in Bangalore this week. The lawyers will make presentations to potential Indian clients with the aim of picking up business at a key point in Indian commercial development.

For years, the country has closed its doors to international investment but now the emphasis is on rapid development — particularly in the power industry, information technology and financial services.

Given the legacy of empire, it is strange that Ashurst Morris Crisp appears to be the only City firm to have a permanent office in India.

Geoffrey Picton-Turbervill, the resident partner in Delhi, said: "Since economic liberalisation in India, we have started to do so much work for UK clients in the country, especially in the field of power generation, that we thought it worth opening an office here."

Linklaters has a strong record, also in power, water and gas developments, and is adapting its "global products" in fields such as project finance to suit the needs of Indian clients and those investing there. John Edwards, a partner with an established reputation in the country, has been specially invited by the Department of Trade and Industry to speak in Bangalore on Friday about the legal complexities of funding big infrastructure projects.



John Edwards: reputation

Mr Edwards said: "We already work for American banks in these areas because only a handful of law firms worldwide can handle these transactions."

Yet Linklaters has no office in India — it runs its Indian practice mainly from London. Nabarro Nathanson, by contrast, has a joint venture with Advani & Co, an Indian law firm, in an office in Dubai. Nabarro's Dubai-based partners often act as first point of contact with Indian and Advani provides a base when the Nabarro lawyers need to go to Bombay or Delhi.

Nipun Gupta, a Nabarro solicitor, said: "We have an established India Group in the firm drawn from many different departments. We're now finding that the power industry, construction, and financial services are generating a flow of transactions."

One feature of the link with Advani and Co is that young Indian lawyers are coming on a scheme to London to gain wider experience. This depth of vision is vital if India is to enter the mainstream of global commercial life. It is being echoed by steps initiated a couple of weeks ago to bring Lebanese and London lawyers closer together.

Through the energy of Mr Ibrahim Kanaan, an enterprising Lebanese lawyer working in the City for Elliot & Co, a friendship agreement was signed earlier this month between the Law Society, the British Middle East Law Council and the Beirut Bar Association to foster more contact between the two countries. Lawyers will be exchanged, visits arranged and advice given to Lebanon as it updates its laws.

Beirut is now intent on re-establishing itself as a Middle East commercial and financial centre. But its legal system — Paris-orientated, as you would expect in a former French mandate, with a mix of Islamic law — needs to be brought into line with the Anglo-American way of doing business. Mr Kanaan has made it almost his personal mission in running the British Middle East Law Council to achieve a better balance between the French and US-UK influences on the country.

In doing this he is supported by many London lawyers. Phillip Newhouse, a partner with Taylor Joynson Garrett, has been advising the Lebanese Government on the best way to set up as a jurisdiction for offshore trust administration. He says: "Why leave Lebanon to the French?"

EDWARD FENNELL

LEGAL NEWS ROUNDUP

Much too quick off the mark

The College of Law, the largest provider of solicitors' training places, has been accused of jumping the gun in the race for students by making offers before the date agreed by all colleges in the market. Some students received offers from the college postmarked February 4, two days before the agreed "opening date for sending out offer and rejection letters" of February 6. The date for offers was agreed by the Central Applications Board, the clearing body for students seeking a place on the solicitors' vocational training course.

There are 26 colleges represented on the board. Nigel Savage, director of Nottingham Law School, said: "The College of Law is the largest provider, and, given that it's controlled and governed by the Law Society and that the board is based at a college branch, we expect that they should abide by rules."

Richard Holbrook, of the College of Law, accepted that the college had appeared to have made a mistake. He said: "It seems the secretary of the board talked in his letter about the 6th as the day for sending out offers — but that was not something that registered with us, nor with one of the other colleges."

He added that, in his view, the matter was a "storm in a teacup" given that 9,114 students had applied nationally for the available 6,700 places.

Implant deadline

THE deadline for women who have had silicon breast implants to register claims against the US settlement fund — and protect their interests if symptoms develop in the next 30 years — has been extended until March 1. Women who miss the deadline will be unable to claim. The Law Society has reopened its inquiry line on 011 388 1133.

Want to bet?

THE second edition of *Lottery Bulletin* produced by Paisner & Co is out. Anne-Marie Piper, the firm's charity law specialist, reviews progress since the launch. The public gambled £7 million in 12 hours after the launch on November 14; at the end of the eighth week, the figure neared £43 million, 12 per cent higher than estimated. Three people have been charged with trying to cheat; and a terminal has been installed in the Palace of Westminster.

New start

THE founding conference of the Discrimination Law Practitioners Association will be held on Saturday, March 18. Details from Paul Crofts, 01933 277000.

In house

YOUNG solicitors are holding their first national fundraising quiz for Shelter this week. The target is £25,000.

Commercial set

MORE THAN 700 barristers from 41 sets of chambers are listed in the 1995 edition of *Combar*, the directory of the Commercial Bar Association. It includes areas of expertise, languages spoken and publications.

FRANCES GIBB

When police set up a sting

One evening in New York recently a married middle-aged executive approached an attractive young woman wearing fishnet stockings and a short skirt. After some light conversation, the woman proposed that they engage in a sex act for money. When the man agreed, he was arrested. The woman was an undercover police officer.

Sting operations have become commonplace in America. John DeLorean was acquitted of narcotics trafficking, although concealed cameras recorded him in a hotel room negotiating a drug deal with undercover officers. DeLorean thought he could use the proceeds of the drug deal to rescue his automobile project in Northern Ireland.

Qubilah Shabazz, the daughter of Malcolm X, was charged last month with plotting to murder Louis Farrakhan, the Nation of Islam leader, believed by Ms Shabazz's mother to have ordered the 1965 assassination of Malcolm X, his bitter enemy. Responding to prosecution claims that they had Ms Shabazz on audiotape and videotape plotting Farrakhan's death, and making part payment for the "hit", Ms Shabazz claimed that she had been entrapped by her fiancé, a government informant working as part of an FBI sting.

Entrapment, while often claimed, has rarely prevailed either at trial or in the appellate courts. Two recent cases, however, have dramatically changed the landscape.

In the first, a 56-year-old Nebraska farmer named Jacobson ordered from a California bookstore materials containing photographs of nude teenage boys. The boys were not engaged in sexual activity but posed in a rural or outdoor setting. Jacobson's receipt of the magazines was at the time legal under federal and state law. Three months later, however, Congress passed a law making illegal the receipt through the mail of sexually explicit depictions of children.



Paul Newman in *The Sting*: should the police ape him?

James Zirin on the rise of the agent provocateur in America

United States postal inspectors swung into action. Over the next 24 months through five fictitious organisations and a bogus pen pal, the government tempted Jacobson with offers of sexually explicit photographs of children. When Jacobson eventually ordered a magazine entitled *Boys Who Love Boys*, the magazine was delivered by postal inspectors who arrested him on the spot.

Finding entrapment as a matter of law, the Supreme Court focused on "predisposition" to commit the crime. The court stated that the Government goes too far when it "implant[s] in the mind of an innocent person the disposition to commit the alleged offence and induce its commission in order that they may prosecute".

In another case, Pickard, a dentist from Fayetteville, Arkansas, with a history of business failure, teamed up with a farmer friend named Hollingsworth. This duo decided to become international financiers — an avocation for which neither had aptitude, training or experience. Capitalising a Virgin Islands corporation with $400,000 (about £255,000), the dentist's life savings, they obtained two foreign banking licences.

In an effort to raise extra working capital, they advertised in *USA Today*, offering to sell one of the two licences for about $30,000. A US customs agent answered the advert.

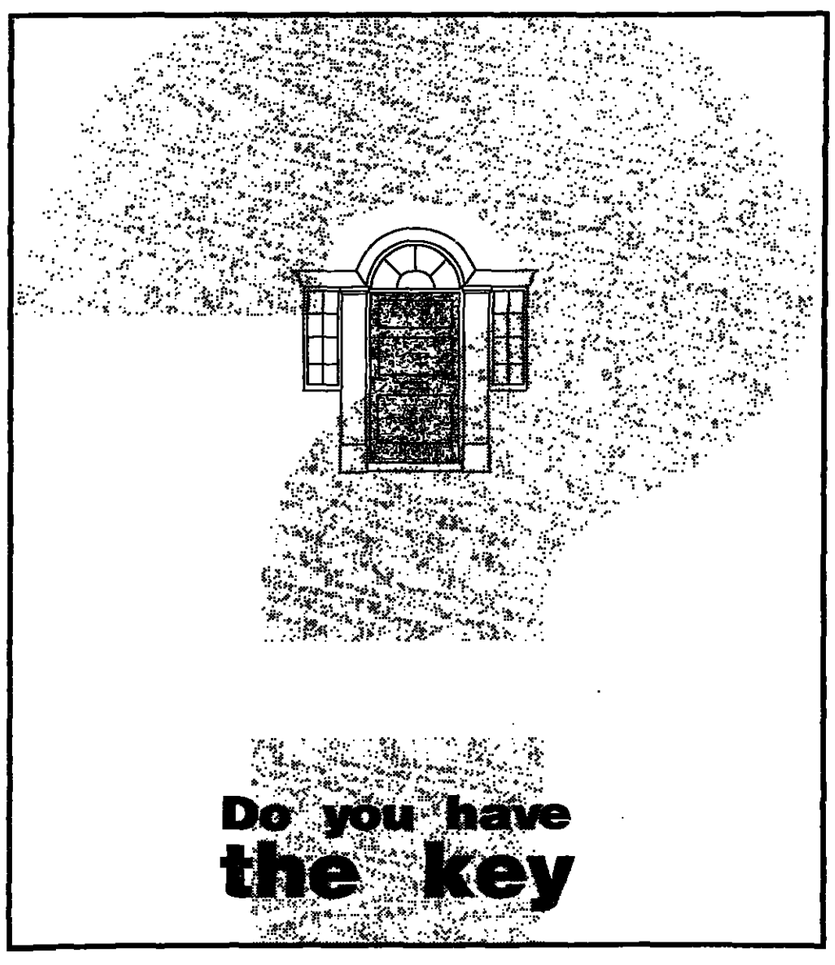
The agent told Pickard that he had a lot of cash and wanted to deposit it offshore. He said the cash was not drug money and that he was not a federal agent or informer. The talks ended inconclusively.

After a silence of almost six months, the agent contacted Pickard again, told him that he was in urgent need of his services and arranged to meet him in an Indianapolis hotel room equipped with concealed video cameras and recording devices. There, the agent explained that the source of funds was gun-running in South Africa and gave Pickard $20,000 in cash, plus $2,405 as a "fee". Pickard, arranged to have $30,000 wired to the agent's bank account. Later transactions accounted for $200,000. One of these was handled by Hollingsworth who met the agent in Indianapolis and couriered $30,000 back to Fayetteville.

Reversing the convictions on the grounds of entrapment, the Pickard court focused on a new element not present in Jacobson — the situation of the defendant. While a public official is in a position to take bribes, a drug addict to deal drugs, a gun dealer to run guns and a paedophile to look at photographs, the court reasoned that there was no evidence that Pickard or Hollingsworth had underworld contacts, financial acumen or access to foreign banks — the typical situation of international money launderers. Not only was there lack of predisposition; without government instigation, there was no capability to commit the crime.

Sting operations have law enforcement value where they create situations so that criminals can be apprehended and brought to justice. But where the Government creates the crime or preys upon the susceptibility of the weak, the sting is unlawful and there will be no conviction.

● *The author, a trial lawyer, is a member of Brown & Wood, a New York law firm.*



Law Report February 21 1995 Court of Appeal

Lender can recover from negligent valuer on default

Banque Bruxelles Lambert SA v Eagle Star Insurance Co Ltd and Others
United Bank of Kuwait plc v Prudential Property Services Ltd
Nykredit Mortgage Bank Ltd v Edward Erdman Group Ltd
BNP Mortgages Ltd v Key Surveyors Nationwide Ltd
BNP Mortgages Ltd v Goadsby & Harding Ltd
Mortgage Express Ltd v Bowerman & Partners (a Firm)

Before Sir Thomas Bingham, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Rose and Lord Justice Morritt

[Judgment February 20]

Where a lender advanced money to a borrower on the security of property which had been negligently overvalued, and would not, but for that valuation, have entered the transaction at all, he was entitled to recover from the negligent valuer damages which included the loss he additionally suffered by a fall in the property market when he sold the property on the borrower's default.

The Court of Appeal so ruled when:

1 allowing an appeal by Eagle Star, insurers of the plaintiff Banque Bruxelles Lambert, from Mr Justice Phillips (*The Times* March 7, 1994) who had disallowed a claim in damages against property valuers, John D. Wood, for a sum representing the loss occasioned by market fall when, on the borrower's default, the bank sold property secured against its loan;

2 dismissing Prudential Property Services' appeal from Mr Justice Gage who, on similar facts, had awarded the United Bank of Kuwait damages which included an award for loss caused by market fall;

3 dismissing Edward Erdman Group's appeal from Judge Byrt, QC, who had concluded that Nykredit Mortgage Bank was entitled to recover damages in respect of market fall;

4 allowing BNP's appeals from Judge Fox-Andrews, QC, who, in awarding damages against Key Surveyors Nationwide and

5 Goadsby & Harding, had disallowed sums in respect of market fall; and

6 allowing Mortgage Express' appeal from Mrs Justice Arden who, in an action against solicitors, had declined to award damages in respect of market fall.

On the hearing of appeals in six actions, the first five of which raised claims against valuers and the sixth against a solicitor, the same complaint was made: that valuers had negligently overvalued the land in question and that the lenders would not, but for those valuations, have entered the transactions at all. The issue was restricted to question of damages present only and did not address further outstanding appeals against findings of negligence.

Mr Michael Lyndon-Stanford, QC, Mr Mark Hapgood and Mr Richard Morgan for Eagle Star; John D. Wood was neither present nor represented.

Mr Roger Toulson, QC and Mr Daniel Pearce-Higgins for the United Bank of Kuwait; Mr Ronald Walker, QC and Mr Vincent Moran for Prudential Property Services.

Mr Michael Briggs, QC and Mr David Blayney for Nykredit; Mr Michael de Navarro, QC and Mr Jonathan Ferris for Edward Erdman Group.

Mr Romie Tager and Miss Ingrid Newman for BNP; Mr Michael Harvey, QC and Mr Simon Brown for Key Surveyors Nationwide.

Mr Walter Aylen, QC and Mr Nigel Jones for BNP; Mr Christopher Gibson and Miss Fiona Sinclair for Goadsby & Harding.

Mr Nicholas Patten, QC and Mr Tim Harry for Mortgage Express; Miss Genevra Caws, QC and Mr Ben Patten for Bowerman & Partners.

THE MASTER OF THE ROLLS, giving the judgment of the court, said that on the present facts the following major questions arose:

1 What was the duty which the valuer broke?
2 What was the loss for which the lender claimed to be compensated?
3 Did the valuer's breach of duty cause the lender's loss?
4 Were the damages claimed by the lender too remote?
5 Was there any reason of policy why the lender should not recover the compensation to which he would otherwise have been entitled?

The duty

In the absence of special conditions the valuer's duty to the lender was to take reasonable care to give a reliable and informed opinion on the open market value of the relevant land at the valuation date. The risk both valuer and lender had in mind was that either the lender would lend when he otherwise would not have done so, or that he would lend more than he would otherwise have done on a correct valuation.

In the absence of special instructions it was no part of the valuer's duty to advise the lender on future movements in property prices, whether nationally or locally; the valuation was not sought to protect the lender against future decline in property prices and the valuer was in no sense a guarantor of the lender's investment decision.

The loss

In *Hayes v James & Charles Dodd (a Firm)* ([1990] 2 All ER 815, 818-819) Lord Justice Staughton had distinguished two methods of assessing loss: The "no-transaction" method applicable in cases such as the present on their assumed facts: where, if the adviser had not advised negligently there would have been no transaction; and "the successful-transaction" method applicable in cases where, if there had been no negligent advice, there would still have been a transaction but on different terms.

The lender accordingly claimed, on a straightforward application of the restitutionary principle to be indemnified against all the loss he had suffered as a result of entering into the transaction.

The general correctness of that approach to a no-transaction case was not in doubt. Controversy focused on one element: that part of the lender's loss attributable to market fall.

The valuer argued that it should be excluded from the calculation of the lender's loss since it was not caused by the breach of any duty which he, the valuer, undertook.

Remoteness

It was not argued that the lender's claim, including that attributable to market fall was too remote. The reason was obvious. Everyone knew that in any market prices might move upwards or downwards. No one expected in recent times property prices to remain stable over a prolonged period.

It was plainly foreseeable that if, on the strength of an overvaluation, the lender entered into a mortgage transaction he would not otherwise have entertained his risk of loss would be increased if the market moved downwards or reduced if it moved upwards.

Policy

The court had not been asked to rule that the lender was disentitled on policy grounds to recover that part of his loss attributable to market fall and the court did not do so.

Causation

The valuer argued that overvaluation did not cause that part of the lender's loss attributable to market fall: that the test that the particular damage was to be sufficiently linked to the breach of the particular duty was not satisfied.

He had no duty to advise on future market movements or to protect the lender against the risk of a fall. He had not caused the fall and the lender's loss could not be laid at his door.

To that the lender had contended:

1 Once it was accepted, which it was, that the valuer's negligence caused the lender to enter into a transaction he would not otherwise have entertained and from which he could not escape at will, the valuer was liable for all the loss which he had suffered as a result, subject to remoteness, new intervening cause or failure to mitigate.

2 It was commercially unrealistic to seek to separate the risk of negligent overvaluation and the risk of market fall and to ascribe different causes to each. It was one transaction and one loss.

If, in the case of commercial property, the valuer overvalued the land he was likely to overvalue the revenue the borrower would draw from it. In the case of domestic property the result of overvaluation would be that the borrower committed himself to pay more by way of interest than otherwise.

If, in either case, the overvaluation was such the the lender, even after deducting a percentage from the valuation figure, advanced more than the sale price, the borrower might be able to avoid committing any of his own funds to the purchase.

In any of those events the risk of the borrower's default was enhanced, the protective effect of any deduction by the lender in advancing the loan was reduced and his prospective loss in the foreseeable event of a market fall increased.

After extensive reference to English and Commonwealth authority the court concluded:

1 The diminution in value rule ordinarily provided an accurate measure of the buyer's loss where he claimed damages for negligence in a successful-transaction case. The assessment would ordinarily be made as at the date of breach, for there was no other appropriate date.

The same rule would usually be applied where the buyer decided to keep the property with knowledge of its defective condition or overvaluation even if, with that knowledge, he would not have bought in the first place. In such a case no account was taken of later fluctuations in the market, for the buyer remained the owner as a result of his own independent decision, not of the negligence of the valuer or surveyor.

2 In a no-transaction purchase case, it seemed clear on English authority that effect would be given to the restitutionary principle by awarding the buyer all he had paid out less what, acting reasonably to cut his losses, including selling the property, he had recovered.

In no case before BBL had any head of foreseeable damage been excluded from the calculation.

3 A mortgage loan on facts as presently assumed differed from a purchase in important respects: (i) the lender was concerned to be repaid with interest at the time or over the period prescribed by the mortgage, (ii) unless and until the borrower defaulted the lender was not entitled to sell the security, (iii) the lender was only interested in the property as security: he would never ordinarily become its owner unless he obtained a foreclosure order.

Thus, even assuming an excessive advance made on a negligent overvaluation the lender might suffer no actual loss since the borrower might repay the loan with interest in accordance with the transaction.

But the lender was at risk all the time for he could not seek repayment except under the terms of the transaction, he could not sell the security even if he became aware of the overvaluation unless and until the borrower defaulted and he could not sell the mortgage loan for there was no evidence of any market in individual mortgages.

Accordingly a measure of the recoverable damages by reference to the diminution in value of the security as opposed to the amount of the loan not recovered could not except coincidentally be the measure of the damage the lender had sustained.

4 In successful-transaction mortgage lending cases the practice had been to treat the difference between what was advanced and what would have been advanced on a proper valuation as the upper limit of what the lender could recover in damages.

The lower limit was nil: for the borrower might make due payment and even if he did not the land might raise enough when sold to reimburse the lender.

If it did, because of a rise in the property market after the transaction date, the valuer indirectly had to be entitled to the benefit of that: the lender would have received his money back with contractual interest and that would leave him with no net loss to claim against the valuer.

It would be contrary to the commonsense which was intended to reign in the present field to ignore property market rise and pretend that the lender had suffered a net loss when he fact he had not.

By parity of approach, if in such a case the lender suffered loss, within the upper limit mentioned, because, when the borrower defaulted and the security was realised, the sum raised did not reimburse him, in part because of market fall, that element of his loss was not to be separated out and disallowed.

He could not recover damages beyond the limit because ex hypothesi he would have been lending and so vulnerable to market fall anyway but he would not have been lending at that level and there appeared to be no reason to deny him recovery of damages which were not too remote within the amount of his excessive advance.

In successful-transaction mortgage lending cases the lender's cause of action against the valuer would arise, as in other cases, on the valuer's breach of contract or the lender's first suffering actual damage, but it might be impossible to assess the lender's loss otherwise than predictively until the financial out-turn of the transaction to him was known.

5 In no-transaction mortgage lending cases it had been the practice since *Baxter v F. W. Gapp & Co Ltd* ([1939] 2 KB 271; [1939] 2 All ER 752) to award the lender his net loss sustained as a result entering into the transaction, which might be expressed as the difference between what the lender advanced and what he would have advanced, always nil, if properly advised, plus related expenses.

Depending on the facts it might also be relevant to take account of a mortgage loan the lender would have made if he had not made it to the borrower. If, in assessing the lender's damages in such a case, it appeared that he suffered no loss because he had received the capital sum advanced with reasonable interest, he would have no more than a nominal claim against the valuer.

Should market rise have contributed to that outcome, then, as in the successful-transaction case, that contribution would not be ignored so as to treat the lender as sustaining a financial loss which in fact he had not sustained.

6 If in such a case market fall between the dates of transaction and realisation contributed to the lender's overall loss sustained as a result of entering into the transaction, the court considered that, on a straightforward application of the restitutionary principle, the lender should be entitled to recover that element of his loss against the negligent party.

If market fall were of modest proportions it was hard to think that the point would be regarded as arguable. But once market fall was accepted, inevitably, as foreseeable, nothing could in the ordinary way turn on its extent. Any distinction between large and small falls would lack any basis in principle.

7 Since the valuer's negligence caused the lender to enter into the transaction, which he would otherwise not have done, and because he could not escape from it at will, the court regarded that negligence as the effective cause of the loss the lender suffered as a result.

The market fall could not realistically be seen as a new intervening cause.

The court differed from the judge's decision in BBL for a number of reasons. In particular, the judge had not been right to distinguish between the risk of overvaluation and that of market fall and between the valuer's duty in relation to each.

The duty was as defined above, if he overvalued the land it was foreseeable that the lender would lend on inadequate security, perhaps in circumstances where, properly advised, he would not have lent at all.

It was foreseeable that the borrower might default and if he did the lender's recovery would depend on what the land might fetch at the time of realisation. That would depend on how the market moved.

Once it was established that the valuer's negligence led the lender to make a loan he would not otherwise have made, in the court's view, the lender was entitled to be compensated for all the damage that he had suffered.

If the market moved upwards, the valuer reaped the benefit, if downwards, he stood the loss.

The court considered general principle and the clear trend of English authority as favouring the view it had reached.

Solicitors: Lovell White Durrant, Clifford Chance; Cameron Markby Hewitt.

Clifford Chance; Williams Davies Meltzen.

Eversheds Phillips & Buck, Cardiff; Davies Arnold & Cooper.

Eversheds Phillips & Buck, Cardiff; Davies Arnold & Cooper.

Rosling King; Pinsent & Co, Birmingham.

Scope of order for security for costs

Dynaspan (UK) Ltd v H. Katzenberger Baukonstruktionen GmbH & Co KG and Another

Before Mr Justice Robert Walker

[Judgment February 14]

An order for security for costs could be made, under the court's inherent jurisdiction, against a plaintiff company which was incorporated and resident in Northern Ireland.

Mr Justice Robert Walker so held in the Chancery Division in allowing an appeal by the plaintiff, Dynaspan (UK) Ltd, a company incorporated and resident in Northern Ireland, from an order of Deputy Master Bragge that the plaintiff give to the second defendant, Marianne Katzenberger, security for costs in the sum of £21,788.25. The first defendant was dissolved on its deletion from the commercial register in Austria in January 1991.

By the Judgments Extension Act 1868, judgments enforceable in England were made enforceable in any part of the United Kingdom; and by section 726 of the Companies Act 1985, where a court had reason to believe that a limited company plaintiff or pursuer would be unable to pay the defendant's costs or expenses if it failed, the court could require it to give security for costs and stay proceedings until it did. That provision and that Act, however, only applied to companies registered in Great Britain.

Mr James Guthrie, QC for the plaintiff; Mr David Sears for the second defendant.

MR JUSTICE ROBERT WALKER said the judgments of the Divisional Court in *Raeburn v Andrews* ([1874] LR 9 QB 118) clearly proceeded on the footing that the court's inherent jurisdiction to order security for costs was based, not on the plaintiff's lack of means, but on his being beyond the reach of its power to enforce its judgments. Hence, by reason of the 1868 Act, the reason for its previous practice, of making orders for security for costs against plaintiffs resident in Ireland, had ceased.

The court's power to order security for costs against a company incorporated under the Companies Acts 1929-85, on the other hand, was based on a quite different principle: that the privilege of limited liability should not, without control by the court, subject a defendant to the risk of incurring irrecoverable costs: see *Trident International v Manchester Ship Canal* ([1990] BCLC 263, 268-9) per Lord Justice Nourse.

In *Wilson Vehicles Distributions Ltd v Colt Car Company Ltd* ([1984] BCLC 93) Mr Justice Bingham had applied what he held to be the ratio of *Raeburn v Andrews* in order to debar the defendant from securing an order for security for costs (i) under either the inherent jurisdiction of the court or under Order 23, rule 1(1)(a) of the Rules of the Supreme Court, since the plaintiff, incorporated and resident in Northern Ireland, was for those purposes to be treated as if resident in England; or (ii) under section 726 of the Companies Act 1985 since it was, for the purposes of that section, treated as a foreign corporation.

Mr Justice Millett had found that decision startling, when facing a similar problem in *DSQ Property Company Ltd v Lotus Cars Ltd* ([1987] 1 WLR 127) suggesting the true ratio of *Raeburn v Andrews* to be that "irrelevant circumstances should be ignored and plaintiffs in similar circumstances should be similarly treated".

Even if *Rayburn v Andrews* was not distinguishable, Mr Justice Millett would not have been prepared to treat the *Wilson Vehicles* case as laying down an inflexible rule of practice which had survived the introduction in 1964 of the present Rules of the Supreme Court and he had accordingly declined to follow it.

Although his Lordship had reservations about Mr Justice Millett's view of the ratio of *Rayburn v Andrews*, he had found the latter part of that later judgment wholly convincing and would follow it, rather than the decision in *Wilson Vehicles*.

On the basis that there was no settled practice preventing the deputy master from exercising his discretion as to ordering security, his Lordship now had a fresh discretion, since this was not a true appeal, as to whether to order full, or limited, or no security, bearing in mind that the plaintiff was in a dire financial position and if it failed, the second defendant might not recover her costs in full.

But that prospect arose from its lack of funds, not from its incorporation and residence in Northern Ireland, so although that was a factor to be taken into account (see *Thune v London Properties Ltd* ([1990] 1 WLR 562, 571-3) per Lord Justice Bingham) it was not so weighty a factor as it might have been on an application under section 726 of the Companies Act 1985.

After reviewing a number of other factors his Lordship found that the plaintiff had a strong, genuine claim that ought not to be stifled by an order for security which it might not be able to meet and allowed the appeal, making no order for security.

Solicitors: Jeffrey Green Russell; Cameron Markby Hewitt.

Limit on voting powers of limited members

National Union of Mineworkers (Yorkshire Area) v Millward

Before Mr Justice Mummery, Mr K. M. Hack and Mrs T. Marsland

[Judgment January 30]

The National Union of Mineworkers (Yorkshire Area) acted correctly in excluding limited members, namely those who had left the industry by accepting voluntary redundancy, from the right to take part in a ballot of members for approval of a transfer of its engagements to the National Union of Mineworkers.

Limited members were not "members" within the meaning of section 100B of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992, as substituted by section 4 of the Trade Union Reform and Employment Rights Act 1993, which provided in relation to ballots of transfer of engagements and amalgamation of unions that "entitlement to vote in the ballot shall be accorded equally to all members of the trade union".

The Employment Appeal Tribunal so held when allowing an appeal by the union from an order of the Certification Officer, made on a complaint by Mr E. Willward, a limited member of the union, that he would not entertain an application for the registration of the instrument of transfer until a fresh ballot of the union members including limited members had been conducted and the members had given approval to the proposal.

Mr John Hendy, QC and Mr Michael Ford for the union; Mr Millward did not appear and was not represented.

MR JUSTICE MUMMERY said that the National Union of Mineworkers (Yorkshire Area) was a trade union in its own right and formed a constituent part of the National Union of Mineworkers. Under its rules it had five types of members including limited members.

In March 1994 a ballot seeking approval of the transfer was carried out and approved. Mr Millward, an officer of the Maltby branch, made a complaint pursuant to section 103(1) of the 1992 Act, as substituted by paragraph 56 of Schedule 8 to the 1993 Act on the ground that limited members had not been accorded a vote.

By a decision dated May 19, 1994, the Certification Officer made a declaration that limited members were members for the purposes of section 100B and should have been given a vote.

The precise question for decision was whether a limited member of the union was entitled to vote in a ballot on a resolution to transfer the engagements of the union. He was only entitled to vote if he could bring himself within section 100B.

The scope of the section depended on its interpretation in the context of the scheme and purpose both of the group of sections relating to the transfer of engagements and amalgamations and of the 1992 Act as a whole.

In the absence of a relevant defined term or statutory set of criteria for determining membership, Parliament had left it to the Certification Officer, the appeal tribunal and the appellate courts to determine the scope of the voting provision.

A helpful approach was to ask how the language of the section would be reasonably understood in the particular case by those to whom the section was addressed and whose affairs were intended to be affected by it.

The crucial point in the case was that there was more than one class of persons described as a member in the union rules. Did section 100B include all of them or only some and if so, which classes of member were excluded?

To determine the scope of the section it was necessary to examine the relationship between each class of members and the union with other members. There were significant differences between the different classes of members.

A detailed consideration of the rules led to the conclusion that only full members could properly be regarded as having an entitlement to vote on questions of the transfer of engagements and amalgamations.

By comparison, the right of limited members to participate in the principal purposes of the union was not substantial and their situation in relation to the central purpose of the union and to the coal industry was such that the reference to "members" in section 100B could not be sensibly understood to include them.

It would be declared that limited members were not members of the union for the purposes of voting on a ballot for the transfer of engagements.

Solicitors: Christian Fisher & Co.

No time limit in referring dispute

Regina v Director General of Electricity Supply, Ex parte Redrow Homes (Northern) Ltd

Before Mr Justice Schiemann

[Judgment February 3]

The Director General of Electricity Supply had a duty under section 23 of the Electricity Act 1989 to determine not merely an unresolved dispute but any dispute referred to him and there was no time limit in which a person requiring a supply of electricity might refer a dispute.

Mr Justice Schiemann so stated in the Queen's Bench Division in a reserved judgment granting an application for judicial review by Redrow Homes (Northern) Ltd of a decision of the Director General of Electricity Supply made on June 27, 1994 that he had no power to determine the reasonableness of the connection charges levied by MANWEB once those charges had been paid.

MANWEB was the licensed public electricity supplier for the area where Redrow had built new houses which they required to be connected to the electricity supply system. MANWEB raised the amount it charged for connection and various builders, including Redrow, deemed those charges unreasonable.

Some of the builders, having objected and received particulars, acted under section 23 and referred their dispute to the director. Redrow and others paid the enhanced charges.

The director subsequently determined the disputes, deciding that the enhanced charges were excessive. Redrow then sought to refer the reasonableness of their connection charges. The director was advised that he was powerless once the charges had been paid and he refused to determine the reference.

Section 23 of the Electricity Act 1989 provides: "(1) Any dispute arising under sections 16 to 22 ... between a public electricity supplier and a person requiring a supply of electricity — (a) may be referred to the director by either party; and (b) on such a reference, shall be determined by order made either by the director or ... an arbitrator ... appointed by him."

Mr Peter Roth for Redrow; Mr Richard Drabble for the director.

MR JUSTICE SCHIEMANN said the application raised a new point of pure construction and was of general importance.

Mr Roth had contended that the only expenses which a supplier could require to be defrayed were those reasonably incurred in providing the electricity line and plant and even then only to such extent that was reasonable in all the circumstances: see section 19(1) of the 1989 Act.

Disputes arose under section 19 between Redrow and MANWEB over the connection charges requested which Redrow said were higher than those reasonable expenses. Those were disputes which under section 23(1) might be referred to the director and which he had to determine.

Mr Drabble had submitted that once payment had been made by the customer of any expenses and the connection made any prior dispute was deemed to have been resolved. The word "dispute" had to be given a meaning limited to unresolved dispute and no dispute could thereafter arise between the customer and the supplier as to the reasonableness of the amount required under section 19.

Mr Drabble further submitted that since the director had no discretion under the Act to refuse to determine any dispute in respect of which he had no jurisdiction, the wider construction would be attended by innumerable inconveniences. Finally, as the supplier under the Act could be forced to make a supply the court should not construe the Act in such a way as to make its position intolerable.

His Lordship was convinced that the wider construction was both natural and correct. He noted, inter alia, that

1 It would have been easy for the draftsman to have stated that any reference had to be made within a given time limit or prior to payment, but he had not done so:

2 Aside from the question of reasonableness, it was clear a dispute could arise under section 16 in respect of making connections after the customer had paid the amount required, for instance, if a supplier had failed to connect or done something badly and that surely was referable to the director and no time limit was laid down in the Act;

3 The inconveniences were potential rather than probable and could often be dealt with under the wider discretion conferred on the director by section 23(5);

4 There were inconveniences that would flow from a narrow construction:

(a) the parties and the director would lose the convenience of a test case and the director would be swamped with references entailing demands on administrative staff even if the substantive decision was likely to be the same in all cases;

(b) in cases where the customer did not become aware of a successful challenge by another customer until the first customer had paid, the first customer would be left with a real and understandable sense of grievance, while any form of limitation of action could have that result, the limitation in cases like the present would, on the director's reading of section 23, be very short indeed;

(c) a customer, in dispute with a supplier, met by a restriction of liability clause imposed by the supplier under section 21, who wished to challenge its reasonableness would be met by a similar argument that he should have made a reference prior to signing the contract;

5 Although the supplier was vulnerable under the Act to being forced to make connections, similarly the customer was vulnerable because of the monopoly position of the supplier.

In all the circumstances there was no reason for giving an artificial meaning to the words of section 23. It was clear that a dispute had arisen and in his Lordship's judgment, if it was referred to the director he had to determine it.

If that were to give rise to administrative or commercial difficulties regarded as unacceptable by Parliament then Parliament had to amend the statute. To accede to the director's contentions would amount to judicial legislation and would be inappropriate.

Solicitors: Mr Ian Mason, Mold: Treasury Solicitor.

When defendant's knowledge is in issue

Regina v Peters

Before Lord Justice Evans, Mr Justice Morland and Mr Justice Gage

[Judgment January 26]

When knowledge was in issue, which carried with it the implication that the defendant was the innocent victim of some other person who had concealed drugs in the defendant's luggage or vehicle, then evidence showing that the defendant had had some other connection with drugs was relevant and admissible, subject to the court's power to exclude it on the ground of undue prejudice. That proposition was not limited to cases where the drugs were of the same kind as those to which the charge related.

The Court of Appeal, Criminal Division, so stated in dismissing an appeal by Mark Ian Peters against his conviction in March 1994 at Maidstone Crown Court (Judge Griffiths and a jury) of being knowingly concerned in the fraudulent evasion of the prohibition on the importation of a class B controlled drug (amphetamine sulphate) for which he was sentenced to five years imprisonment.

Mr Cairns Nelson, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for the appellant; Mr Daniel Matovu for the Crown.

LORD JUSTICE EVANS, giving the judgment of the court, said that the decision of the Court of Appeal in *R v Willis* (unreported, January 29, 1979) was the authority which supported the admission of the evidence in the present case, subject to the court's discretion to exclude it on the ground of undue prejudice.

The defendant's denial of any knowledge of the drugs found concealed in his vehicle necessarily implied that he had been made the innocent victim of some other person's drug-smuggling enterprise.

The chances of that having occurred depended greatly upon the question whether he was a person who had had any contact, even only as a customer, with persons who handled unlawful drugs. The relevance of that evidence was that it tended to show that the defendant's possession, subject to his knowledge of them, of the drugs being imported was not a coincidence.

Solicitors: Solicitor, Customs and Excise.

Producing relevant medical records

Hipwood v Gloucester Health Authority and Others

Where a plaintiff claimed damages for personal injuries and loss of future earnings, her medical records were likely to be relevant documents and, therefore, the defendants were entitled to have such documents held by her general practitioner produced to their legal and medical advisers under section 53 of the County Courts Act 1984.

The Court of Appeal (Lord Justice McCowan and Lord Justice Simon Brown) so held on January 30 in allowing an appeal by the defendants, Gloucester Health Authority. Gloucestershire Health Authority and Gloucestershire Royal NHS Trust, from an order of Judge Willcock, QC, at Exeter County Court in favour of the plaintiff, Jennifer Muriel Hipwood.

LORD JUSTICE McCOWAN said that the plaintiff had relied on *Dunn v British Coal Board* ([1993] ICR 591) in contending that the disclosure of the documents should be made to the defendants' medical advisers, but not the legal advisers. That case, however, was not a decision under section 53 of the 1984 Act, or section 34 of the Supreme Court Act, which governed the High Court.

Court can only review decision

In re J (a Minor) (Specific issue order)

The court had no jurisdiction under the Children Act 1989 to make a specific issue order compelling a local authority to provide support services on behalf of a child.

Mr Justice Wall so stated in a chambers judgment in the Family Division on February 14 at Lewes reported with consent when refusing leave to J to seek a specific issue order.

MR JUSTICE WALL said that it was clear that Parliament intended that the exercise of the local authorities' powers and duties under Part III of the 1989 Act should not be the subject of judicial scrutiny except by means of judicial review. The local authority alone was empowered to make the decision.

Whether a child was in need did not raise a specific question relating to any aspect of parental responsibility for the child. An order made under section 8 of the 1989 Act was inapplicable to the exercise of the local authority's powers and duties.

In order to challenge the decision of the local authority that he was not a child in need J had to seek judicial review in the Queen's Bench Division.

Three year old letter of request

Regina v Central Criminal Court, Ex parte Hunt
Same v Same, Ex parte Botnar

Where a letter of request seeking assistance from a foreign jurisdiction in the obtaining of evidence had been issued in England three years previously during a trial which had since ended, it was for the authorities of that jurisdiction to whom the request had been made to decide whether or not to comply with it.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court (Lord Justice Kennedy and Mr Justice Waterhouse) so held on February 1 when determining the current legal status of a letter of request issued to the Swiss authorities pursuant to section 3(1) of the Criminal Justice (International Co-operation) Act 1990 by Judge Denison, QC at the Central Criminal Court on March 10, 1992.

The letter of request had been made in respect of four people including the applicants, Criminal proceedings in respect of two of the four had come to an end; the third and fourth were in Switzerland and Norway from which neither could have been extradited.

It was submitted on behalf of the applicants that the letter lapsed at the conclusion of the criminal trials as there was then no machinery for the material requested to be processed, disclosed or argued before any English court.

LORD JUSTICE KENNEDY said that where the letter had been issued nearly three years ago it was for the Swiss authorities to decide whether they were prepared to give assistance after such a lapse of time. It was not the proper function of the court to express a view as to how those authorities should respond but they were entitled to have information as to what had occurred in the English jurisdiction since the request was made.

Employee's warning

Bevan Ashford v Malin

A final written warning to an employee, dated January 29, 1992, which stated that it would remain on the employee's personal file for a period of 12 months from the date of the warning, was to be construed against the employers as having expired on January 28, 1993.

The Employment Appeal Tribunal (Mr Justice Mummery, Mr D. G. Davies and Mr A. D. Scott) so held on February 9, when dismissing the employers' appeal against a finding of unfair dismissal.

MR JUSTICE MUMMERY said that statutory rules and judicial decisions cited illustrated the importance of determining each question of construction on its particular wording and context and established the general proposition, if any, that use of "from" a particular date was ambiguous.

As the employers had produced a document of a penal nature which was ambiguous, it should be construed strictly against them and in favour of the employee.

Correction

In *Barrand v British Cellophane plc* (*The Times* February 16), Mr Andrew Edis, instructed by Hill Dickinson Davis Campbell, Liverpool, appeared for British Cellophane and Mr Alexander Verdan, instructed by Lawford & Co. for Mr Barrand.

In *Peach Grey v Sommers* (*The Times* February 16), Mr Giles Harrap was instructed by Godwin, Brembridge & Clifton, Winchester and Mr Nigel Baker, QC and Mr Nicholas Dean were instructed by Turners, Bournemouth.



OPERA page 38
Instead of a new Figaro, a cash-strapped Welsh National Opera dredges up its old production

ARTS

CINEMA page 39
Bertrand Tavernier casts his bait and reels in gold at the Berlin Film Festival



VISUAL ART: A modern American master at the Tate; an Academician at 80; recommended exhibitions

Passions brought to the surface

Richard Cork reviews a well selected and beautifully displayed survey of the paintings of Willem de Kooning

Compared with the convulsive energy to come, the first room of Willem de Kooning's Tate retrospective is astonishingly still. Figures sit or stand in a hesitant way, sometimes barely emerging from the shadows of a room. They seem to doubt their own existence, and feel oppressed by the drabness of life. Since the earliest were painted in the late 1930s, the stifling privation of the Depression period may help to account for their tense, muted constriction.

More significantly, though, they reflect de Kooning's own difficulties as an aspiring yet little-known painter. Already 35 by the time the first of these images was produced, he had been working as a commercial artist in New York for over a decade. The technical facility of his illustrations did nothing to boost a belief in his potential as a painter with the highest ambitions. And the fact that he was an immigrant, who had left his native Holland as a stowaway in 1926, only exacerbated de Kooning's lack of confidence.

Nevertheless, the initial room at the Tate proves that he soon became an artist of the first rank. By 1940, when he produced *Seated Figure (Classic Male)*, his work had taken on a new authority. The seated model still emerges from the surrounding space with diffidence. But the image does not convey any lack of ability on de Kooning's part. The thin charcoal lines defining the figure's well-developed torso are incisive, while the fading and fragmentation within his limbs arise from the artist's search for a new way of apprehending the body in question.

He found his own path by concentrating on the female form. The most prophetic of these early paintings show women asserting their presence more and more forcefully. Even in 1940, he gives the legs of a *Seated Woman* a surprising amount of brilliant yellow clamour. Her mouth is slightly parted, revealing a Bacon-like smear of teeth. But the violence inherent in this pent-up image only becomes overt around four years later. Suddenly, in *Woman*, the entire figure takes on a baleful strength. Envenomed by puce and acid green, this predominantly lemon presence stares out of the canvas like a gorgon, ready to petrify anyone rash enough to return her gaze. Her eyes protrude almost as bulbously as her breasts, and her left hand has become a talon tipped with blood-red fingernails.

As if to match this new sense of menace, de Kooning's handling of his oil and charcoal grows more agitated. The old delicacy and faintness disappear. Stimulated no doubt by the accelerating boldness of contemporaries such as Arshile Gorky and Jackson Pollock, he loosened his mark-making and stopped relying on charcoal. During the late 1940s, when so many avant-garde painters in New York reached their magnificent maturity, de Kooning finally found his *métier*. Using enamel now with oil, he deployed broader brushstrokes and began to explore the possibilities of chance. Pigment is allowed to splash and dribble, conveying the pulse of an increasing emphasis on unbridled expression.

> ‘De Kooning gave himself up to an ever more ecstatic vision as he grew older’

Even so, he did not forget the value of rigour. In a series of powerful 1948 paintings, de Kooning restricted himself to black and white. The feeling he conveyed was frenetic, though. The tangle of colliding forms is often as exuberant as an orgy. Phallic shapes barge their way into ripe, swollen neighbours. The sexual impulse which gives his later work so much drive here becomes overt, along with a sly sense of humour. The exhilaration inherent in the act of painting is infectiously declared across the scarred and turbulent surfaces of his work.

Once white began to win the struggle against black, however, aggression came to the fore. In an outstanding painting called *Attic*, the tumultuous figures may still be caught up in erotic delight. But they also seem to be snapping and snarling at each other. Executed in 1949, *Attic* suggests that the Second World War is not yet over.

Even without the great *Excavation* canvas, sadly too fragile to make the journey from the Art Institute of Chicago, 1950 can surely be seen as de Kooning's *annus mirabilis*. It marked, after all, the onset of his most impressive female figure paintings. Woman, in a headlong canvas from the University of Carolina completed that year, becomes a terrifying apparition. Her snarling teeth and claw-like hands seem bent on obliterating, and de Kooning's handling of pigment has an engulfing power. Dragged, flung, scraped and pummelled, the paint embodies his ambivalent and combative attitude towards his subject. If memories of his formidable mother play their part in the turbulence, the picture as a whole is far too raw and direct to spring wholly from the wounded legacy of childhood.

By the time he completed the towering *Woman I*, a justly renowned canvas begun in 1950, de Kooning had learnt how to give his art an electrifying sense of attack. The conflict inherent in his attitude to the redoubtable seated figure is fully matched, now, by the spectacle of a painter bringing all his resources to bear on the uninhibited manipulation of pigment. The canvas, more than ever, becomes a battleground where de Kooning dramatises a protean struggle between his opposing visions of woman. At once voluptuous and predatory, Venus and Medusa, *Woman I* refuses to be saddled with a clear-cut identity. Her outsize breasts are as brazen as a pin-up's, but they look threatening as well. They have a voracious, smothering force, and the teeth starkly exposed in her mouth now take on the menace of a shark's fangs.

However hypnotic this figure may have been for de Kooning, her Amazonian capacity to unman and devour meant that he could not afford to let her dominate his work for ever. He was, after all, more and more fascinated by the possibilities of abstraction. And during the early 1950s the overweening woman is gradually swallowed up in the maelstrom of the city she inhabits. Urban clangour reaches its most hectic pitch at this stage. De Kooning's attack leads him to the point of overload in paintings as discordant as the 1955 *Composition*. Life in New York now assumes a nauseous character, and his less successful work becomes marred by rhetorical excess.

It is a relief, then, to move into a room where city gives way to country. The drastically simplified strokes, laid on now with a house-painter's wide brushes, evoke luminous expanses of grass, beach, sea and sky. Inspired by the eastern end of Long Island, where de Kooning settled in 1963, the best of these landscapes benefit from his feeling of release. *Door to the River* is a sublime achievement, assaulting and caressing in equal measure. De Kooning's marks are more sensuous than before, and seem to be impelled by the liquid rhythms of the water.

As he grew older, de Kooning gave himself up to an ever more ecstatic vision, arriving at a climax of gorgeousness in 1977. Although figures can sometimes be glimpsed in these overwhelming lush canvases, they are subordinate to an obsession with landscape. Vegetation presses itself on our sense, and so does the potency of the ocean. In one tumultuous canvas, *North Atlantic Light*, a blue sailing-boat shivers near the centre, afloat yet vulnerable. Even as he revels in the richness of these elemental surroundings, de Kooning's nervous brushwork acknowledges their transience and hints at the inevitable dissolution of form.

Total disintegration took over sooner than anyone expected. With the tragic onset of Alzheimer's disease in the 1980s, de Kooning's dynamism began to fade. There are a few powerful canvases in the Tate's final room, where he still manages to resist his incapacitating illness and hold on to some, at least, of his former visceral engagement with the stuff of paint. But this was a struggle he could not win.

By the middle of the decade, when the last paintings in this superbly selected and displayed survey were completed, a terrible deterioration set in. Thin and linear, the mark-marking now seems too pat. Far from using the canvas as an arena, where titanic conflicts are exposed and acted out in all their vitality, the ailing octogenarian settles for an easily imposed order. All the ardency and gusto drains away, negated by the oblivion of a mind no longer able to fight against the waning of the light.

● *Willem de Kooning: Paintings is at the Tate Gallery, Millbank, London SW1 (0171-887 8000) until May 7*



MUSEUM OF MODERN ART, NEW YORK/©DACS

Woman I, begun in de Kooning's *annus mirabilis* of 1950: a painting imbued with "an electrifying sense of attack"

AROUND THE GALLERIES

THE Impressionism in Britain show at the Barbican has persuaded every dealer with something in stock that could possibly be categorised as British and Impressionist to dust it off and put it on show. The title of the Fine Art Society's *A Century of Impressionism in Britain* suggests that its aim is somewhat different. The question it raises is: which century? It must be more like 1820-1920: it starts with Constable and Cox, and later on works through most of the native talent, followers of Whistler and radiant ruralists like Stott and Clausen. The Impressionists' gift for transfiguring the everyday is everywhere apparent: never more so than in an iridescent landscape by Alexander Mann which looks at a glance like an unfamiliar corner of fantastically-towered Istanbul and proves on inspection to be Greenock.
Fine Art Society, 148 New Bond Street, W1 (0171-629 5116) until March 10.

☐ The artists in the new tripartite show at Jason and Rhodes are perhaps rather curiously combined, but the ultimate balance is unexpectedly satisfactory. The scratchy, mysterious but brilliantly coloured excursions into the Australian scene and universal legend (in this case Lysistrata) are fairly predictable, and there is little development in the most recent work. But Gwen Hardie's very personal paintings, a curious sort of abstraction in which landscape (not necessarily earthly) can be felt lurking somewhere, are always gaining in richness and subtlety of colour. Calum Colvin works with photography first and foremost, and only secondarily with paint. Yet his intricately staged cibachrome prints are intensely painterly.
Jason and Rhodes, 4 New Burlington Place, W1 (0171-434 1768) until March 4.

☐ Lohan Emmanuel, only recently out of art school, seems determined to go his own way, in spite of fashion. The final effect of his large paintings is rather surrealistic: he seems to set out to paint a traditional group of figures in a landscape, and then gradually lets the landscape invade the human space, overlaying the people until they can be guessed at only by the vestiges of their gorgeous costumes peeping through.
Cassian de Vere Cole, 50 Elgin Crescent, W11 (0171-221 9161) until March 10.

☐ Shamanism seems to be rather in vogue with artists at the moment, owing partly, no doubt, to the influence of Joseph Beuys. But Carole Berman's approach is quite personal: if one thinks of anything else while looking at her paintings and drawings of *Shamanic Heads* it would be most likely Matisse's drawings and prints based on Inuit themes. What Berman does is to take human and animal heads from various ethnic sources, and meditate on them, vary them, fantasise round them. Some of the animal masks in particular are quite straightforward and direct, but others become very elaborate.
Rebecca Hossack Gallery, 35 Windmill Street, W1 (0171-436 4899) until March 4.

JOHN RUSSELL TAYLOR

John Russell Taylor talks to the painter Mary Fedden, 80 this year but making work filled with youthful vigour and enthusiasm

Still lifes still glowing with life

Mary Fedden RA must now be counted among the senior Royal Academicians: improbably, she is 80 this year. But from her work one might suppose her to be one of the most youthful.

For the last few years she has been a regular fixture of the Academy's Summer Exhibitions, lighting up odd corners with her unmistakable still lifes, arranging a few basic elements — fruit, pots, eggs, pebbles, flowers — on a flattened table, frequently against a distant landscape glimpsed through an open window. And always in the most brilliant yet subtle colours: these are paintings dedicated to the joy of life.

Though she has made frequent painting trips to various parts of the Mediterranean, where the strong white light brings out the vibrant colour for all to see, often she transfigures the even grey light of England with her own sensuous perceptions.

It still comes as a bit of a surprise to find her at home in the riverside studio residence she has occupied for the last 45 years — most of them with her painter husband Julian Trevelyan, until his death seven years ago. Outside the windows the Thames above Hammersmith Bridge offers a series of misty, Whistlerian pastels. Within, the living room is hung mainly with Trevelyan's quirky, formalised landscapes, the studio, naturally enough, with Fedden's own blazing visions of the everyday.

Spritely and talkative, Fedden does not strike one as in any way a senior citizen. She still gets the biggest kick out of painting, and she is very prolific. Full recognition has come fairly late — election to the Royal Academy in 1992, a book and two West End exhibitions this year — but she has been a popular and enjoyed figure for some years.

It is perhaps surprising that though she and Julian Trevelyan lived and worked in close proximity for nearly 40 years, one would never confound their paintings. "I suppose we always remained very different people," says Fedden. "I was most interested in still life, which really did not interest Julian at all. And he preferred landscape, which, though I do sometimes paint 'pure' landscape, is not really my line of country unless it is seen beyond an interior. What I do miss very much now, though, is another voice on my work. Julian was the most understanding critic."

Fedden and Trevelyan first met at the Slade in the mid-Thirties, when she was studying there. She did not, apparently, find the atmosphere congenial: very much dominated by the Euston Road approach to painting, and rather starved of life and colour. But she loved being taught stage design by Vladimir Polunin, who had worked with Diaghilev. "A wonderful little man, still speaking English very badly, but with great gusto," he believed firmly in colour, and got all his students working with his friend Epstein on Epstein's only ballet design, for *David*, danced by the young Anton Dolin.



DENZIL McNEELANCE

Mary Fedden in her riverside studio in Hammersmith

When Fedden left the Slade she scraped a living as a journeyman painter, doing commissioned portraits in her native Bristol. During the war she felt unable to paint at all, but re-emerged afterwards in full force, having found her characteristic subject-matter and something already approaching her mature style.

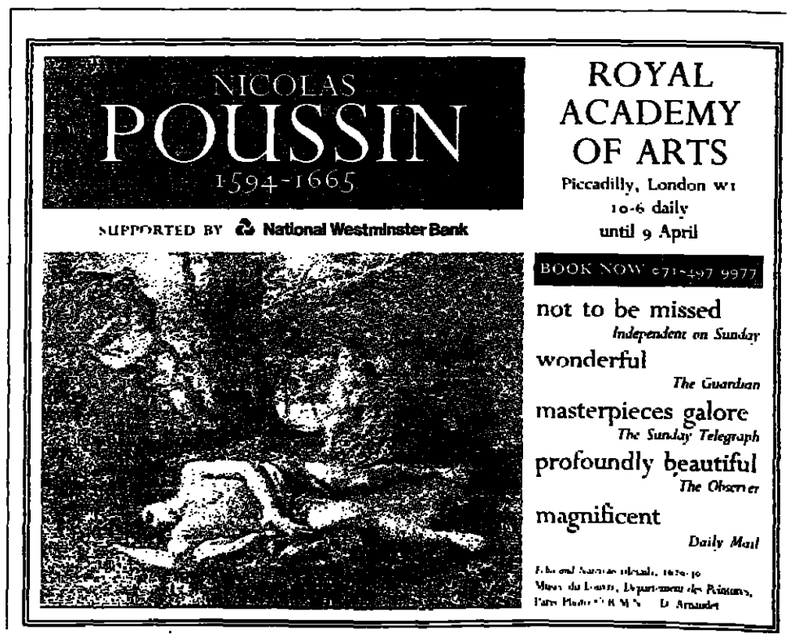
It was only after the war that she really discovered what she regards as the two most important influences on her work: Matisse and Ben Nicholson (neither of whom had been regarded as a suitable model at the Slade). Every now and then she pays explicit homage to them both.

In 1951, after the break-up of Trevelyan's first marriage, he and Fedden rediscovered each other. During the later Fifties and early Sixties they were both teaching at the Royal College, he printmaking and she painting, at just the time when David Hockney, Patrick Caulfield, Allen Jones and R.B. Kitaj were studying there, and it is not difficult to see signs of Fedden's influence in all of them.

Her recent dose of limelight leaves her pleased but unimpressed. Her approach to life and art is unsentimental and practical. She sees me looking at a basket in the studio full of dismembered prints. "You might think that that is my wastepaper basket. Actually, it's my collage basket. Julian was always tinkering with prints, discarding trial proofs. I use them to give textural interest to my collage paintings, just cutting my own shapes out of his: the pattern on the chair in that picture, for instance, comes from a group of skyscrapers in the background of that etching. The only trouble is that I'm now running out of material."

For collages only, though. As long as two mottled eggs can sit comfortably next to a half lemon on a table, Fedden's imagination will always have something to work on. As she cheerfully observes, "I don't necessarily paint things as they are: I paint them as I want them to be."

● *Mary Fedden's recent oils are at the Beaux Arts Gallery (0171-437 5799) until March 11; works on paper are at the Coram Gallery (0171-404 3040) until March 11. Mary Fedden, by Mel Gooding, is published by the Scolar Press at £25*



TODAY'S EVENTS

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Kris Anderson

LONDON

IN PRAISE OF LOVE. Peter Bowles returns to the West End in Rattigan's drama inspired by the relationship between Rex Harrison and his wife Kay Kendall. Its English première as a two-act play, with Lisa Harrow. Christen Anholt and Sam Douglas Richard Olivier directs.
Apollo, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5070). Previews began tonight, 8pm. Opens March 6

OFFICIUM: *Jazz meets classical in an* unlikely but highly successful partnership between Norwegian saxophonist Jan Garbarek and the vocal quartet The Hilliard Ensemble. Their interpretation of works, including the *Officium defunctorum* by the 16th-century composer Cristóbal de Morales, was welcomed by critics and public alike last year
Festival Hall, South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 8800). Tonight, 8pm. Then **Nottingham** Wed (0115 9419741/ 9482626), **Liverpool** Thurs (0151-709 3789) *and* **Birmingham** Sat (0121-212 3333)

MODEST MUSSORGSKY The great *bass Anatoli Safulin* and pianist Nikolai Demidenko bring the spirit of 19th-century Russia to London tonight with the complete Mussorgsky song cycles *Sunless, The Peepshow, The Nursery* and *Songs and Dances of Death*.
St John's, Smith Square, SW1 (0171-222 1061). Tonight, 7.30pm.

NOT QUITE THE RONNIE SCOTT QUARTET. Scott himself has had to drop out of this week's performances, so in slides saxophonist Jim Tomlinson *as part of the John Critchinson quartet* (the rest of Ronnie's group).
Ronnie Scott's, Frith Street, W1 (0171-439 0747). Tonight-Sat, from 8.30pm

ELSEWHERE

CHICHESTER: The multi-award winning Shared Experience Theatre turns its talents to George Eliot's **The Mill on the Floss** this season. Nancy *Meckler and Polly Teale direct.*
Festival, Oaklands Park (0243 781312). Tonight-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Thurs and Sat, 2.30pm. Last UK venue until April.

EDINBURGH: The National Youth Music Theatre takes a fantastical, barnstorming look into the darker depths of the Arthurian legends in *Pendragon*. A great hit at the 1994 *Edinburgh Festival Fringe*.
Festival, Nicolson Street (0131-529 6000). Tonight-Sat, 7.30pm, mat Thurs, 2pm

LEICESTER. Last week of performances here for the first of two new Phyllis Nagy plays opening this spring (the second opens in London later this week). **Disappeared** reconstructs the series of events that led up to a woman's disappearance after meeting a stranger in a rundown New York bar
Haymarket Studio, Belgrave Gate (01533 5399797). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mat Sat, 3.15pm.

WOLVERHAMPTON: Peter Knapp's **Travelling Opera** takes two of its most popular productions, *The Marriage of Figaro* and *La Bohème*, on tour. Always lively, English versions of the great favourites from this deservedly busy venture
Grand, Lichfield Street (01902 29212). Tonight-Thurs, 7.30pm.
Swindon Fri and Sat (01793 524481)

LONDON GALLERIES

Barbican: Impressionism in Britain (0171-638-4141) **British Museum**, *Mexican Gallery (0171-636 1555)* . . **Courtauld:** Frank Dobson, Sculpture 1915-1954 (071-873 2526) . . **Crafts Council**: Furniture Today: Design and Craft (071-278 7700) . **Hayward:** Yves Klein (071-928 3144) **National Portrait Gallery**: The Road from 1945 (0171-306 0055) . . **National Gallery**: The Age of Elegance (0171-839 3321) **V&A**, Warworks: Women Photographers (0171-938 8500)

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

■ **House full, returns only**
◪ **Some seats available**
☐ **Seats at all prices**

☐ ***CELL MATES*** *Rik Mayall and* Stephan Fry play Sean Bourke and George Blake, the very odd couple together in Wormwood Scrubs and Moscow. Simon Gray directs his own play
Albery, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-369 1730). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats Wed, 3pm and Sat, 5pm.

☐ **THE CLANDESTINE MARRIAGE.** Nigel Hawthorne plays the dilapidated Lord Oglaby and directs a strong cast in this good-hearted comedy about 18th-century greed, snobbery and true love
Queens, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5041). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Sat, 2.30pm

■ ***DEALER'S CHOICE*** *Patrick* Marber's fascinating poker drama. Funny one-liners abound, along with perceptions of the roots of gambling
National (Cottesloe), South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2252). Tonight, 7.30pm. Wed, 2.30 and 7.30pm

☐ ***DESIGN FOR LIVING***: Rupert Graves and Marcus D'Amico join Rachel Weisz for the transfer of Sean Mathias's award-winning Donmar production of Coward's *menage a trois* comedy
Gielgud, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5065). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats Thurs, 3pm and Sat, 4pm

■ **THE DUCHESS OF MALFI**: Juliet Stevenson suffers, Simon Russell Beale writhes, in a production that isn't quite there yet but should improve before its projected West End transfer
Greenwich, Crooms Hill, SE10 (0181-858 7755). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mat Sat, 2.30pm. Until Mar 25

◪ **HAMLET** Ralph Fiennes in Jonathan Kent's eagerly awaited *Almeida* production, with Francesca Annis, James Laurenson, Peter Eyre, Paterson Joseph and Terence Rigby
Hackney Empire, Mare Street, E8

Interesting ideas and good acting led by Angela Thorne. David Burke and Mick Ford.
Pit, Barbican Centre EC2 (0171-638 8891). Tonight, 7.15pm

◪ **THE THREEPENNY OPERA:** Phyllida Lloyd's splendidly inventive *revival of Kurt Weill's opera Tom* Hollander sings Macheath.
Donmar Warehouse, Earlham St, WC2 (0171-369 1732). Mon-Sat, 8pm; *mats Wed and Sat, 3pm*

◪ **ZORRO — THE MUSICAL:** The masked swashbuckler rights wrongs, defies gravity and gives the audience a great time in a typically rumbustious Ken Hill show
Theatre Royal, Gerry Raffles Square, *Stratford, E15 (0181-534 0310).* Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Mar 2, 2pm and Mar 11 and 18, 3pm. Until Mar 18

LONG RUNNERS

☐ **Arcadia**: Haymarket (0171-930 8800) . . ☐ **Buddy**: Victoria Palace (0171-834 1317) . . ◪ **Cats:** New London (0171-405 0072) . . ☐ **Crazy for You:** Prince Edward (0171-734 8951) . . ☐ **Five Guys Named Moe**: Lyric, *final week* (0171-494 5045) . . . ◪ **Grease**: Dominion (0171-416 6060) ◪ **Les Misérables**: Palace (0171-434 0909) . . ☐ **My Night With Reg**: Criterion (*0171-839 4488*) ☐ **On Approval**: Playhouse (0171-839 4401) ☐ **A Passionate Woman**: Comedy (0171-369 1731) . . . ☐ **She Loves Me**: Savoy (0171-836 8888) . . . ◪ **The Sisters Rosensweig**: Old Vic, *final week* (0171-928 7616) . . ◪ **Starlight Express:** Apollo Victoria (0171-828 8665) . . ◪ **Sunset Boulevard:** Adelphi (0171-344 0055) ■ **Three Tall Women**: Wyndhams (0171-369 1736) . . ◪ **The Woman in Black**: Fortune (0171-836 2238)

Ticket information supplied by Society of London Theatre.

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ◆) on release across the country

NEW RELEASES

◆ **ANDRE** Adventures of an orphaned seal. Well-packaged family film with *Keith Carradine, Tina Majorino and a* scene-stealing sea lion.
MGM Trocadero ◪ (0171-434 0031) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) ***Mezzanine*** ◪ *(01426 915683)* **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **Plaza** (0800 888997) **UCI Whiteleys** ◪ (0171-792 3332) **Warner** ◪ (0171-437 4343)

BANDIT QUEEN Dynamic, controversial drama about India's legendary outlaw, a ground-breaking production by Shekhar Kapur.
Chelsea (0171-351 3742) **Clapham Picture House** (0171-498 3323) **Curzon West End** (0171-369 1722) **Odeon Kensington** (01426 914666) **Screen/Green** (0171-226 3520)

◆ **BLACK BEAUTY** Unsatisfying, gloomy version of the children's classic, featuring Sean Bean and David Thewlis. Director, Caroline Thompson
Barbican ◪ (0171-638 8891) **Clapham Picture House** (0171-498 3323) **MGMs: Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** ◪ (0171-434 0031) **UCI Whiteleys** ◪ (0171-792 3332) **Warner** ◪ (0171-437 4343)

CAMILLA Whimsical swansong for *Jessica Tandy, an aged concert violinist* who rejuvenates a younger woman (Bridget Fonda). Director, Deepa Mehta.
MGM Shaftesbury (0171-836 6279)

HOLY MATRIMONY Sexpot joins an Anabaptist community. Queasy, unfunny comedym with Patricia Arquette. *Director, Leonard Nimoy*
MGM Piccadilly (0171-437 3561)

◆ **RUDYARD KIPLING'S THE JUNGLE BOOK** *Muddled live-action* adventures of jungle boy Mowgli. With Jason Scott Lee, Lena Headley, Cary Elwes. Director, Stephen Sommers
MGM Chelsea (0171-352 5096) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **West End** (01426 915574) **UCI Whiteleys** ◪ (0171-792 3332)

THE SHAWSHANK REDEMPTION How to survive long decades in prison. Engrossing drama with Tim Robbins and Morgan Freeman. Director, Frank Darabont
Odeon Leicester Sq (01426 915683)

CURRENT

AMATEUR (15): Amnesiac pornographer faces his past with a former nun's help. Quirky, touching, *pseudo-thriller from Hal Hartley, with* Martin Donovan and Isabelle Huppert.
MGM Haymarket (0171-839 1527) **Minema** (0171-235 4225) **Odeon Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **Renoir** (0171-837 8402)

◆ **INTERVIEW WITH THE VAMPIRE** (18): Tom Cruise shows Brad Pitt the vampire way of life. Dull, over-stuffed version of Anne Rice's book. Director, Neil Jordan
Clapham Picture House (0171-498 3323) **MGMs: Baker Street** (0171-935 9772) **Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Tottenham Court Road** (0171-636 6148) **Trocadero** ◪ (0171-434 0031) **UCI Whiteleys** ◪ (0171-792 3332) **Warner** ◪ (0171-437 4343)

◆ **LEON** (18): Precious child shelters under a hitman's wing. Sleek, empty thriller shot in New York, by French *director Luc Besson. With Jean Reno,* Natalie Portman and Gary Oldman
Clapham Picture House (0171-498 3323) **MGMs: Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Tottenham Court Road** (0171-636 6148) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **West End** (01426 915574) **UCI Whiteleys** ◪ (0171-792 3332)

◆ **THE LION KING** (U): African lion cub almost loses his father's throne. Much hyped but charmless Disney cartoon, not meant for tiny tots.
MGMs: Fulham Road ◪ (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** ◪ (0171-434 0031) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Mezzanine** ◪ (01426 915683) **UCI Whiteleys** ◪ *(0171-792 3332)* **Warner** ◪ (0171-437 4343)

◆ **ONLY YOU** (PG): Marisa Tomei chases the *man of her dreams through* Italy. Lazy blend of comedy, romance and travelogue, with Robert Downey Jr. Director, Norman Jewison.
MGMs: Chelsea (0171-352 5096) **Tottenham Court Road** (0171-636 6148) **Odeons: Mezzanine** ◪ (01426 915683) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **UCI Whiteleys** ◪ (0171-792 3332)

◆ **THE ROAD TO WELLVILLE** (18): Frolics and chicanery at a turn-of-the-century sanatorium. Overdone health food satire, with Anthony Hopkins, Bridget Fonda, Matthew Broderick. Director, Alan Parker
Barbican ◪ (0171-638 8891) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Marble Arch** (01426 914501) **Mezzanine** ◪ (01426 915683) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **UCI Whiteleys** ◪ (0171-792 3332) **Warner** ◪ (0171-437 4343)

◆ **SOLITAIRE FOR 2** (15): Body-language lecturer pursues archaeologist with ESP. Awkward comedy from *Pig Farmer* co-director Gary Sinyor. With *Mark Frankel and Amanda Pays.*
MGM Trocadero ◪ (0171-434 0031) **Odeon Kensington** (01426 914666) **Plaza** ◪ (0800 888997) **Warner** ◪ (0171-437 4343)

◆ **STAR TREK: GENERATIONS** (PG): Talky but acceptable film debut for the *stars of television's Star Trek: The Next* Generation, Patrick Stewart's Captain Picard meets William Shatner's Kirk. Director, David Carson
Empire ◪ (0800 888911) **MGM Baker St** (0171-935 9772) **Fulham Rd** (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** ◪ (0171-434 0031) **UCI Whiteleys** ◪ (0171-792 3332)

OPERA: Mysteriously wooden Mozart in Wales; an heroic soprano for Puccini in London

For wedding read funeral

Le nozze di Figaro
New Theatre, Cardiff

WELSH National Opera's spring season was to have led off with a new production of Mozart's comedy, either *by Baz Luhrman or Christopher* Alden. Both would have been interesting. But cutbacks have meant yet another revival of Giles Havergal's eight-year-old staging, which is not. No *fewer than three rehearsal directors* are credited: would that one of them had had the gumption to banish the army of extras who bumble in and out of the action, fatally compromising the contact between singers and audience, or clean up the half-cock production numbers that disfigure both Figaro's *Non più andrai* and Marcellina's aria. This is a messy muddle of a production.

And that is not all that the distinctly promising cast has to contend with. *Carlo Rizzi's conducting had all the* flexibility and charm of a provincial bandmaster — fast, loud, unyielding. *Rizzi is a fine musician and has done* good work with the company: is this really how he thinks Mozart should go? I am genuinely mystified.

He never seemed to be *with* the singers, but always hustling them on, snapping at their heels. Balance with the stage and in the pit itself was careless: *the purling woodwind scales* that climax the overture, for instance, were barely audible through the mush, and the singers *had to sing full out to* make sure they were heard. The odd moment in *Voi che sapete* and *Dove sono* apart, I cannot remember hearing Mozart so wooden, graceless and un-nuanced.

What with this and a production in which the essentials of *Figaro* — class *warfare, sexual rivalry, complex emo*tional relationships — are lost in the clutter, the singers could only make their mark in isolation. Some succeeded: Ryland Davies's effortlessly stylish *Don Basilio, every word and note* redolent of his Glyndebourne background, is a gem, and he cannot have been best pleased at having one of his fail-safe laugh-lines killed off by cack-handed surtitling. Susan McCulloch's strongly sung, touchingly maternal Marcellina was carefully thought out.

The central quartet is led by *Sheri* Greenawald, whose smoky tone with its attractive flutter did nicely for the Countess. Rebecca Evans's soprano gets more interesting as each month *passes: her top* has always been lovely, but her middle register is growing ever more colourful and expressive. Her *lively Susanna was, in the abstract, a* delight. Roberto Scaltriti's enormously promising Figaro — dark tone, marvellous words — was frankly defeated by the production and the conductor. The same goes for Jason Howard's somewhat detached Count, though he managed a more than decent version of his aria.

Gabriele Erhard, from Germany, looked good and sounded slightly less *good as Cherubino* — perfectly adequate, but worth the import? Dozens of British mezzos could do with the work. *Donald Adams's impeccably D'Oyly* Carte Italian as Bartolo was among the few amusing aspects of a pretty grim evening, but not, I suppose, strictly relevant to the matter at hand.

RODNEY MILNES

DONALD COOPER



Promising cast, unpromising production: Figaro (Roberto Scaltriti), Susanna (Rebecca Evans), centre, and Cherubino (Gabriele Erhard)

Strength in fragile wings

Madam Butterfly
Coliseum



Powerful: Susan Bullock as Madam Butterfly

SUSAN BULLOCK's Butterfly, back at the Coliseum, has to be one of the most compelling performances of the opera season to date. Graham Vick's production, now ten years old, opted for Puccini's first version of *Butterfly*, booed off the stage at La Scala. One of its disadvantages was a bottom-heavy second act, which thrusts all its weight on the soprano in the title role. *On present form Bullock* can take every kilogram.

In *Butterfly* only the heroine changes. Pinkerton is a rotter throughout and Sharpless remains ineffectual. But Cio-Cio-San comes to know how it feels to be bought and discarded. Bullock's *ability to convey* this provides the core and the strength of her interpretation.

She first trips on stage, moon-faced and subservient, using a light, fluting soprano. All this alters in the Love Duet. Puccini's sudden and *sole move from verismo into* romantic opera in this earlier and grittier version of *Butterfly*. Warmth switches into eager anticipation during Act II and then into full-blooded despair. Bullock has the vocal resources to begin as a soubrette and end as a Tosca, a role surely now on the agenda.

The tension she generates makes everyone else look pallid. Bonaventura Bottone, *singing his first ENO Pinkerton*, portrays the pride of the US Navy as a boor and a sot. He pours himself a hefty slug of Johnnie Walker before thinking to offer Sharpless one. And the pair together get through the best part of a *bottle during the* wedding ceremony. Bottone looks good and is fine in the Love Duet but *elsewhere sings with unremitting* force when Bullock is at hand with a lesson in delicacy.

Arwel Huw Morgan cuts a Somerset Maugham-ish figure as the consul seeing out his provincial Japanese days in gravelly and not always quite accurate voice. Catherine *Wyn-Rogers is a knowing and* impressive Suzuki.

Michael Lloyd provided plenty of vigour in the pit. Graham Vick's staging remains resolutely anti-American as Pinkerton refers contemptuously to "the Nips". At the close Butterfly's very Japanese son runs up to his father who places a naval officer's cap *on his head. Birth* of a nation or just a Pacific overture?

JOHN HIGGINS

JAZZ: Infectious enjoyment, from waltzes to Caribbean rhythms

Organically fertile four

Perfect Houseplants
Vortex, N16

AS MIGHT be deduced from the fact that they operate under a collective title rather than, as more often in jazz, naming themselves after a leader, Perfect Houseplants are a *band run on sound* democratic principles. They have established a group identity which, while inevitably drawing considerably on the talents of each man in the quartet, is not defined by any single member's voice.

Of course, in a band relying entirely on original compositions for their repertoire, the composer of the bulk of their material — in this case pianist Huw Warren — might reasonably be expected at least to set the tone, or establish musical parameters within which the group work. This Warren undoubtedly does. A deft, lucid but often energetically assertive player, he combines a scrupulous attention to nuances, more usually associated with classical pianists, with a jazz player's improvisatory robustness, enabling him to establish delicate themes and then subject them to a vigorous examination.

And the Kitchen Sink, Perfect Houseplants' opener, did just this. Its theme was a carefully constructed, tripping Warren melody which provided a structure within which both Warren's piano and Mark Lockheart's intimately breathy tenor saxophone could improvise, faultlessly supported by the cultured bass of Dudley Phillips and the skittering drums of Martin France. The following piece, *Clec* — the title track of their new album, also written by Warren — was a great deal perkier, its central melody almost playful, but the band's overall approach remained attractively restrained throughout both this and the subsequent 90 minutes of Warren, Lockheart and Phillips' compositions.

This is not to imply that the band produce a po-faced brand of chamber jazz — far from it: their clear enjoyment of material ranging from eccentric waltzes through breezy, almost West Coast-type music to jazz filtered *through Latin and Caribbean* rhythms is unmistakable and highly infectious. In Mark Lockheart, too, they have one of the most underrated saxophonists currently working in the UK. The group interaction, both between him and Warren *in their trademark unison passages during theme state*ments, and between Warren, France and Phillips working as a rhythm section under him, is a delight to hear.

CHRIS PARKER

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هكذا من الاصل



Cleanliness next to ungodliness: Marie Ravel (left) and Marie Gillain in Bertrand Tavernier's *L'Appât*, a chilling portrait of juvenile crime, which won the Golden Bear in Berlin

Looking for Bears in the dark

Geoff Brown emerges blinking from the Berlin Film Festival, laughing at oblivion but less moved by a British butterfly kiss

Tom DiCillo hit the nail on the head when he called his new Berlin offering **Living in Oblivion**. What does a film-festival attendee do but live in oblivion? For all we knew, during the past 12 days John Major's Government had collapsed, the Eiffel Tower was painted pink, and Madagascar vanished from sight. We have been imprisoned in the darkness, living, breathing and talking celluloid, aware only of the artistic merits of the new Robbe-Grillet (precious few, it transpires) or the latest trends in Denmark. The festival done, we emerge blinking, relieved to find the real world still out there.

Despite its gloomy title, DiCillo's *film, shown in the Forum section*, proved an enormous tonic. You could actually laugh at it. The action unfolds on the set of a low, low budget movie. Or at least the action would unfold if only a light did not blow, music did not blare from a passing car, or a preening actor stopped misbehaving. DiCillo's project began as an off-the-cuff short about the fevered dreams of the film's director (played by Steve Buscemi), and its expansion to feature length shows some signs of strain. Not to worry: you can forgive much in an independent film that looks at itself in a crazy mirror, never trivialises its characters' emotions and allows actors and audiences to have such fun.

Elsewhere, most items in Berlin were hard put to raise a titter. Britain's competition entry, **Butterfly Kiss**, came billed as a black comedy. But this first theatrical feature by television writer Frank Cottrell Boyce and Michael Winterbottom, director of *Family* and other television series, proved too strange and chilling to deliver the advertised goods.

The film, the first to be part-financed by the Merseyside Film Production Fund, certainly has atmosphere: the faceless atmosphere of motorways in the North of England, criss-crossed on a corpse-laden spree by the murderous, chain-wearing Eunice and the mousy Miriam, her devoted new friend. *Butterfly* also boasts two commanding performances from Saskia Reeves and Amanda Plummer. But it lacks an obvious point. There is talk of punishment and hell, but the film emerges as an exercise in grotesquerie, and not as a rewarding exploration of human nature's dark corners.

The freak nature of *Butterfly Kiss* still made it one of the festival's talking points. Audiences were galvanised even more by **Smoke**, the new film by Wayne Wang which was awarded the Special Jury Prize, although much of the film's personality stems from Paul Auster's adaptation of his own *Auggie Wren's Christmas Story*.

Wang's usual stamping ground is America's Chinese immigrant community. Here he falls into the Brooklyn melting pot, armed with criss-crossing stories centred around Auggie's corner tobacco shop. Harvey Keitel is Auggie, and while it is pleasant to find the actor neither naked, tattooed nor pumping people full of bullets, he never convinces as a master of Brooklyn bonhomie.

Brooklyn itself seems less than half-real, more a stylised backdrop for Auster's smart, desiccated dialogue than the New York borough the world knows and loves. The film, entertaining but insubstantial, came partnered with an instant sequel, **Blue in the Face**, an indulgent, unnecessary piece that mixes some *Smoke* actors with authentic Brooklyn residents and stars in cameos, from Michael J. Fox to Madonna.

The other American competition entry to stir discussion was Abel Ferrara's **The Addiction**. Boos rang out at the press screening, undeserved in my book, for this black-and-white vampire tale with philosophical and feminist leanings had a brooding power all its own. Alongside *The Addiction*, *Interview with the Vampire* looks more than ever like an over-stuffed costume drama: if you want to know what vampire hunger feels and tastes like, Ferrara tells you, in spades.

Among the European contestants, Bertrand Tavernier scooped the Golden Bear for best film with **L'Appât** ("The Bait"), a worried portrait of juvenile crime that provides decent enough viewing, but lacks the punch of its predecessor, *L.627*. Two youths and a girl who gets around want to establish a clothes shop in the land of dreams, America. The girl's wealthy clients will provide the cash: they just have to be robbed and, if necessary, murdered, clumsily, noisily, with knives, clubs and brutal kickings.

While the deed is being done, the girl (Marie Gillain) shuts out the noise with a Walkman, or watches a video while tasting the victim's smoked salmon. Chilling? It should be, although Tavernier expends so much effort presenting these youths as normal products of consumer society that their nonchalant amorality almost becomes ours.

Only when the police pounce in the final reel does tension mount, and we are able to shrug off the "so what?" feeling that saps the film's strength in the middle.

Rather Tavernier, though, than Alain Robbe-Grillet, who returns to cinema after a 12-year gap with **Un Bruit qui Rend Fou**, a film that drove the audience mad with its high pretensions, splintered narrative and beautiful Greek island scenery going to waste on the CinemaScope screen. Thirty years ago, when the writer of *Last Year at Marienbad* first ventured into direction, there was a place in the world for his well-chiselled enigmas. For better or worse, audiences and the film market have moved on since then; but Robbe-Grillet now appears locked in an ivory tower, next door to Jean-Luc Godard.

As usual these days, it was left to directors from the Far East to show how to tell stories properly in images. The Forum contained one quiet gem from Japan. Jun Ichikawa's **The Tokyo Twins**, a melancholy study of a brother and sister's claustrophobic lives since the deaths of both parents. Ichikawa's unhurried approach and use of domestic detail show the influence of Ozu. At times the images appear too artfully assembled, but the precious style never kills the feelings stirred by the two youngsters, trapped by mutual dependence.

In the competition section, the best Asian offering was **Blush**, from the Chinese woman director Li Shaohong, which traces the fortunes of two prostitutes following "retraining". Li paints a vivid portrait of China's social upheavals in the early 1950s, but the film's core lies in the personal dramas of the two ladies and the one man who weaves through their lives.

Apart from *Butterfly Kiss*, two British films showing outside the competition made a noise. The very subject of Antonio Bird's **Priest** — the priest in question is Catholic and homosexual — begs controversy in many countries. Bird's approach shows some development over the hammer-blow style of her award-winning television drama *Safe*, though Jimmy McGovern's screenplay follows predictable paths, and the film's ability to rouse festival audiences to enthusiasm remains something of a mystery.

Peter Chelsom's follow-up to *Hear My Song*, **Funny Bones** also got audiences going, at least until the fanciful plot about two half-brothers from a show-business family, one funny, one not, became too much to bear. In any case, only one man was truly funny in Berlin, and he was Buster Keaton, principal focus of the *festival's retrospective. Nothing was* more rejuvenating than to watch a Keaton silent such as **Our Hospitality** — so funny, so charming, so humane — at the end of the day. And no titbit of information was tastier than the fact that Keaton's widow Eleanor, a festival guest, trained the St Bernard in *Beethoven*. Keaton's legacy is wider than we thought.

BERLIN WINNERS

Best Film (Golden Bear): *L'Appât*
Special Jury Prize (Silver Bear): *Smoke*
Best Director (Silver Bear): Richard Linklater (*Before Sunrise*)
Best Actor (Silver Bear): Paul Newman (*Nobody's Fool*)
Best Actress (Silver Bear): Josephine Siao (*Summer Snow*)

TIPPETT FESTIVAL

A rose in full, fresh bloom

LSO/Davis
Barbican

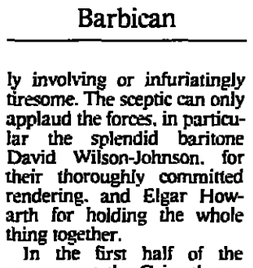
I QUITE admired the two protesters who, in the long silence at the end of the world premiere of Sir Michael Tippett's orchestral piece *The Rose Lake* on Sunday evening, shrieked "rubbish!". They were declaring their complete inability to hear a remarkable, strange, exquisitely beautiful and often innovative new score with open ears and receptive minds, an action which demands a certain kind of courage.

What is more, the audience's reaction seemed to be to ask itself what kind of experience it had just been through. The answer came loudly and clearly: it was not simply affection for a great old man that brought them to their feet during his ninetieth birthday celebrations, but an instinctive response to being caressed by music of intense poetic beauty. For *The Rose Lake*, aptly subtitled "A song without words", is an overwhelmingly powerful piece of warm reflectiveness that can only come from a life as rich in experience as Tippett's.

Above all, *The Rose Lake*, just like the daily vision of Le Lac Rose in Senegal which changes colour as the sun reaches its zenith and which inspired it, has a timeless quality. About two-thirds of the way into the piece I suddenly realised that it was getting rather long. But then came another realisation: I could have sat in my chair for another hour listening to these ravishing sounds and would not have cared, nor even known, that an hour had passed. Meanwhile the intellect perceived that, through all these collisions of fragments, something organic was happening. The piece, conceived as a passage from dawn to dusk, from birth to death, has substance and shape and in the end elevates itself onto another plane.

The fundaments of the new work are lyricism and colour. The writing for harps is particularly effective while, the combination of rototoms — drums of variable pitch with a precise, unmuggy sound — and marimba cleverly evoked the flavour of the African instrument the mbira.

Above all, the work speaks with a daring spareness and simplicity; when the lake begins to sing, a simple rising interval of a ninth, first played by horns, does the trick. If this work should turn out to be



Tippett: poetic beauty

Tippett's swansong, it could hardly have been sung more eloquently.

The London Symphony Orchestra, under Sir Colin Davis, who had been presented with the Gold Medal of the Royal Philharmonic Society by Sir Michael before the concert, gave the work the kind of premiere it deserved. They had earlier warmed to Tippett's idiom and humanity with a glittering performance of the Ritual Dances from his opera *The Midsummer Marriage*; and it was to their credit that neither Ravel's Piano Concerto, in which the excellent, strong-limbed soloist was Gerhard Oppitz, nor Debussy's *La Mer* came across as anticlimaxes.

STEPHEN PETTITT

Beyond words

LS/Howarth
Barbican

ACCORDING to one of Tippett's most perceptive critics, Ian Kemp, *The Vision of St Augustine* is not necessarily his greatest work, nor his most characteristic, but "certainly his most extraordinary". After the accomplished performance by the London Sinfonietta and Chorus on Friday night, as part of the birthday celebration, one does not feel inclined to disagree.

This 35-minute work for baritone, chorus and orchestra, dating from 1965, does not simply depict the vision of eternity, of God, that Augustine shared with his mother as they stood at a window in the Italian port of Ostia, he re-creates it. Thus the transcendent is embodied in the very structure and fabric of the music. Structurally, the relationship of the human to the divine is represented by that between time and eternity: past, present and future merge into a single entity. Vocally, the saint's ecstasy is conveyed by wordless repetitions of vowel sounds ("glossolalia").

This may not, then, be Tippett's most characteristic work, but it does carry to an extreme some of the traits that make his music either uniquely involving or infuriatingly tiresome. The sceptic can only applaud the forces, in particular the splendid baritone David Wilson-Johnson, for their thoroughly committed rendering, and Elgar Howarth for holding the whole thing together.

In the first half of the programme the Grimethorpe Colliery Band gave us a snatch of *King Priam* followed without a break by Tippett's 1962 *Praeludium*, arranged for brass band by Howarth, who conducted. Tippett's later *Festal Brass with Blues* showed that he himself had a sure command of the medium. The Grimethorpe band realised the inventiveness of his scoring, and the flugelhorn solo was well taken.

The band also coped ably with Birtwistle's taxing *Salford Toccata*, and took the unusual spatial displacements of Chris Sansom's *Double Entendre* (with Andrew Ball the piano soloist) in its stride.

BARRY MILLINGTON

CLASSICAL CONCERT

Tainted love

Bernini Ensemble/ Levy
Wigmore Hall

THE "dark, secret love" of William Blake's sick Rose was not the only worm i' th' bud of Britten's settings of English poetry in his *Serenade* for tenor, horn and strings. Another poem was to have been part of the cycle; but Tennyson's *Now sleeps the crimson petal* was excised almost as soon as the work was completed, and not heard again until 1987.

The song is still seldom performed, so Alastair Levy's programming of it gave a welcome opportunity both to enjoy its uneasy, lilting *berceuse*, and to speculate anew on the reasons for its exclusion. Levy's Bernini Ensemble and tenor Ian Partridge made it speak in the same elusive language of love, night and death as their own subdued *Serenade*: maybe the image of the lily slipping in to the bosom of the lake *was* just a little too near the bone in 1943 for a song overtly dedicated to Peter Pears.

The Bernini Ensemble was sensitive enough to the characteristically well groomed, if occasionally threadbare, singing of Partridge. It was less at ease in the Haydn and Mozart symphonies which framed the Britten.

Although it is now eight years old, this young chamber orchestra has only really come to notice in the past two or three years, thanks to sponsorship windfalls. But it still lacks the distinctive voice which comes from frequent ensemble performances shaped by leadership with vision. Levy is an enthusiastic and lively conductor — so lively, indeed, that the baton is likely to go flying through the air at any moment, sending music flying in all directions.

However, speed and nervous rhythmic insistence can work in inverse proportion to the energy expended. Both Haydn's Symphony No 39 and Mozart's Symphony No 25 contain more than mere *Sturm*, mere *Drang* — and the dramatic struggle at their heart can only be played out in a more searching sense of line, dynamic nuance and instrumental balance than the Bernini can as yet command.

HILARY FINCH



Soviet icon: the *Luriki* series by Boris Mikhailov has echoes of American pop art

PHOTOGRAPHY: Russians reclaim their Soviet past

Ol' red eyes are back

Strictly speaking, *Photo-reclamation* is not an exhibition of photography, but an assembly of ready-mades and installations which use photographic images as their source material. The works are produced by seven artists from Moscow and St Petersburg who aim to "plunder the personal and community histories of the former Soviet Union to construct intelligent meanings for their own, highly transitional time". Thus, photographs of Soviet generals are covered with scrunched-up tracing-paper, magazine cut-outs are superimposed on well-known paintings, and postcard shots of landscapes are made to rotate as the viewer walks past.

The most immediately appealing works are the *Luriki* series from the early 1980s by Boris Mikhailov, which are essentially crudely hand-coloured family portraits. In the Ukraine at that time photographers were asked to colour photographs that were of particular sentimental interest. Mikhailov has carried this practice to an extreme — his colours are as garish as those used by the pop artists. Indeed, the portrait here resembles the familiar images of Presley, Monroe *et al*.

Whereas Mikhailov is "reclaiming" images by borrowing the manner of American pop art, Gennady Gushchin attempts his reclamation by adopting a collage style reminiscent of British pop art. Gushchin takes an early 20th-century painting such as Arkady Rylov's *In the Blue Expanse* and places a healthy-looking man and woman taken from a 1950s magazine on top of it. The result looks as contrived as traditional Stalinist propaganda showing workers looking muscular and happy with their lot. Gushchin's most striking image is that of *Renaissance Portrait* from 1986, which shows part of Gorbachev's face cut away to reveal the Mona Lisa's smile.

Ludmilla Fedorenko uses the technique of "found" art almost literally. Some of her works are photographs of photographs that she found on a rubbish-dump near her house. Their frames and glass were broken, and Fedorenko has photographed them just as they stand. Her series *The Time When I Was Not Born*, from 1993, are prints of old family snapshots taken in the 1940s and 1950s.

If Fedorenko's scratched and grainy images appear positively gothic, then those of Victoria Buivid are nothing short of twee. Her series *Weekend*, from 1990, is shot in the style of films from the 1920s, but to a Western eye they may look like Calvin Klein advertisements. The tweeness sets in with the nine photographs that make up *Love Me as I Love You*, which are embellished with embroidery around the edges and messages such as "Pash and I. Friends until the grave". The aim is obviously to create an artificial nostalgia, but the irony essential to "reclamation" seems lacking.

Whether *Photo-reclamation* succeeds is not really the issue here (although, in the main, it does); what is welcome is the chance to see contemporary photographs by Russians rather than of them.

GUY WALTERS

● *Photo-reclamation runs at The Photographers' Gallery, 5 Great Newport St, London WC2 (0171-831 1772) until March 18. Opening times: 10am to 6pm, Monday to Saturday. Admission free.*

Exhausted rebels withhold their labour

Dutch coach finds eight Ajax players at breaking point



ROB HUGHES
Overseas Football

A couple of weeks ago, Terry Venables, desperate for international matches for his England side, approached Guus Hiddink, coach of the Dutch national team, to suggest that England play Holland in the spring. A nice idea, but impractical.

Subsequent events have shown two good reasons why Hiddink had to decline. After Dublin, imagine the insecurity of the "friendly" against two of Europe's more potent nations when it comes to the cocktail of football and hooliganism. And Hiddink is the coach whose players have finally rebelled. No fewer than eight of his team chosen for another friendly, tomorrow against Portugal in Eindhoven, have refused to turn up.

The eight, among them some of the most gifted young performers in Europe, all play for Ajax Amsterdam and have a legitimate grievance that their bodies, and minds, are being over-worked.

Ajax are favourites for the European Cup, having twice outplayed AC Milan this winter. They are leading the Dutch national league, and involved in several domestic cup competitions. And, though the "rebellion" has come from the dressing-room, some of the performers well remember the words of Louis van Gaal, their club coach, at the beginning of the season:

"Listen to your body. If you are aching, if you feel any stress, be honest. Come to me, say you need a rest, and I promise you will not lose your place in the team."

How enlightened. Van Gaal has been involved in the development of some of these players, notably Clarence Seedorf, Edgar Davids and the leading striker in Holland, Patrick Kluivert, 18, since their boyhood. For Ajax schools players, finds them as rough jewels on the street, polishes and refines them as no other club in the world. The habit began a quarter of a century ago with Johan Cruyff, whose mother cleaned the steps of the old Olympic Stadium.

And, just as Cruyff once led five players of Ajax to refuse their labour to the royal Dutch association, so now the majority of the team feels enough is enough. Their spokesman Danny Blind, at 33 almost a father figure in the team, said: "We are not aiming a revolt at Hiddink, but everyone knows that the KNVB [the Dutch association] has frivolously managed our interests."

He means that the administrators, like Fifa itself, think of the players as machines. Some have had no rest since the World Cup semi-final, played in the Dallas heat, and, because of their success, face no rest this summer now that Uefa has inflicted the money-grabbing Intertoto Cup on the leading European clubs.

The profits are there for administration. Some of it percolates down to the players, but they see, especially in Amsterdam, the still athletically crippled figure of Marco van Basten, the finest goalscorer not to kick a ball in almost two years. They see the process of wear and tear becoming intolerable.



Cruyff: once led revolt

And, though van Gaal astutely arranged the programme so that Ajax had a three-week Christmas break, suddenly the Dutch FA pushed two more friendlies into that gap. Hiddink, like Venables searching for a blend, chose, again and again, the Ajax eight.

For Ajax, there is the obvious vested interest. The club stands close to the pinnacle of the European game. It is trying to keep, rather than to sell, the individuals that it has plucked from the schools system, to keep them at a time when it is also building a £100 million stadium in Amsterdam. And, if officialdom will not acknowledge the breaking point in players, then they themselves are entitled to withhold their skills. After all, Hristo Stoichkov and four other foreign-based Bulgarians recently made themselves unavailable for a friendly international against Argentina, citing the same club-before-country priority.

So, Venables must look elsewhere: the Dutch are not coming out to play. In any event, his own rationale changed a week ago when, standing amid the debris of Lansdowne Road, Dublin, he spoke of Draconian measures to fight the violence attaching itself anew to England.

He suggested that we look at Singapore, where the crime rate is so vastly diminished because criminals fear the repercussions of the law. Why stop at Singapore? Nearby, in Indonesia, the minister for youth and sports, Hayono Isman, has proposed that football hooligans be charged with subversion.

This move followed the death in a stadium of a young Indonesian supporter ... and subversion in Jakarta carries the penalty of death. That, certainly, would put an end to the problem.

☐ Italy's lower house of parliament yesterday approved a series of measures aimed at curbing the violence at matches that cost a Genoa supporter his life last month.

The Chamber of Deputies approved a decree which allows police to bar violent supporters from stadiums and makes it illegal for clubs to give free tickets and other such perks to groups of followers whose members have a history of violence.

The decree, which must return to the Senate (upper house) for final approval, states that any club found to be subsidising violent groups of "ultras" (hardline supporters) could lose up to 50 per cent of their receipts for any given game. But a lower house committee decided to remove a controversial provision which would have made clubs liable for part of the costs of policing their matches.

ROBIN MAYES



John Merricks, left, and Ian Walker have already enjoyed the sweet taste of success in world dinghy-racing. Yesterday they were joined by Ian Sproat, the sports minister, for a celebratory dip in Trafalgar Square, central London, to mark a new £150,000 sponsorship agreement with Mars, the confectioners, intended to extend their domination to the Olympic Games, in Atlanta, next year. The pair are world champions in the two-man 470 class and top the International Yacht Racing Union world rankings. They recently won the USA World Cup regatta in Miami and have been installed as favourites for the gold medal next year. To eke out what has, until now, been an extremely limited budget, they have been competing in a four-year-old boat, often camping under canvas at overseas regattas.

Spaniards savour rare glory

FROM BARRY PICKTHALL IN SAN DIEGO

THE Spanish have won their first America's Cup trial race. After beating Syd Fischer's *Sydney 95* by more than 11 minutes on Sunday, the celebrations that followed suggested that they might have won the cup itself.

Coming after 15 morale-sapping defeats in succession, it was no surprise that the *Rioja* crew jumped for joy at the finish. Pedro Campos, the skipper, went for a victory dip.

"Today, it seems we have won the America's Cup, judging by the reception we got back at our compound," Campos said. "I knew we would win a race. This is only the first. Now we can fight and, when someone makes a mistake, we are there to pounce."

Campos is among the most aggressive starting helmsmen in the Louis Vuitton Challenge fleet, but the boat was not competitive until the team changed the keel bulb after the second round. Last night the Spaniards were preparing to meet the French crew, who have lost their past four races. The winner of that battle climbs closer to securing a place in the semi-finals while the loser almost certainly heads home when the round-robin trials end on March 8.

Of the leading contenders, Campos thinks *oneAustralia* is a faster boat than Team New Zealand's *Black Magic*, which has lost only on a protest. One more round-robin remains before the top four boats enter the semi-finals.

In another significant battle on Sunday Kevin Mahaney's *Young America* defeated Dennis Conner's *Stars & Stripes* to take command of the defence trials, while John Bertrand's *oneAustralia* counted her third win in succession by beating *Nippon 94* by almost nine minutes. In the day's other race, Chris Dickson's *Tag Heuer* beat the French entry by six minutes.

Richardson returns to lead West Indies

RICHIE RICHARDSON will return as West Indies captain for the forthcoming series against Australia in the Caribbean, the West Indies Cricket Board of Control announced yesterday. Richardson missed the recent tours of India and New Zealand because of acute fatigue. Courtney Walsh, who led West Indies in India and New Zealand, was named as the vice-captain. Wes Hall was appointed manager of the tour to England that starts in May, with Andy Roberts, another former fast bowler, as coach.

Ricky Ponting, 20, the uncapped Tasmania batsman, and Justin Langer were selected yesterday in the Australia squad for the four-Test tour. Ponting and Langer join the six batsmen who played against England in the fifth Test match in Perth. Paul Reiffel, the Victoria seam bowler, was named as the fourth fast bowler, alongside Craig McDermott, Glenn McGrath and Damien Fleming.

AUSTRALIA PARTY: M A Taylor (captain), I A Healy (vice-captain), G S Blewett, D C Boon, D W Fleming, J L Langer, C J McDermott, G D McGrath, T B A May, R T Ponting, P R Reiffel, M J Slater, S K Warne, M E Waugh, S R Waugh.

Davie loses mast

YACHTING: Robin Davie, the Solo yachtsman, has been dismasted 2,00 miles west of Cape Horn on the third stage of the BOC Challenge round the world race (Barry Pickthall writes). Davie, from Cornwall, reported yesterday from his 40-foot yacht: "It happened without any warning, when a 35-knot snow flurry came through. I rounded up a bit and bang, the mast gave way seven feet above the deck." He said that he would continue towards Cape Horn and try to make for the Falkland Islands under a jury rig. Davie was lying fifth in his class when the rig collapsed.

Cook bows out in style

CRICKET: Jimmy Cook, the South African who spent three successful seasons with Somerset, has retired from the first-class game after 23 years. Cook, 41, scored 54 in his final innings for Transvaal against Eastern Province in the Castle Cup yesterday, bringing his final career aggregate to 21,143 runs in 475 innings at an average of 50.58. He made 64 centuries and 87 half-centuries.

Cook, who played three Test matches, is to continue as the Transvaal manager, a job he took at the end of last season after the departure of Eddie Barlow.

Agassi misses Queen's

TENNIS: Andre Agassi will miss the Stella Artois championship at the Queen's Club in June, the traditional warm-up tournament for Wimbledon (Stuart Jones writes). The world No 2 has declined the invitation but a strong field from the world's top ten has accepted. Pete Sampras, last year's runner-up, Stefan Edberg, Goran Ivanisevic, Todd Martin, the holder, and Patrick Rafter, the promising Australian, will all take part. The organisers are awaiting a response from Boris Becker, the world No 3.

Colorado trip shelved

CYCLING: Britain has abandoned plans to send a 20-strong team of riders to Colorado for three weeks' altitude training before the world road and track championships at Bogota, Colombia, next September (Peter Bryan writes). Ian Emmerson, president of the British Cycling Federation, said yesterday that the United States squad had exclusive use of the Colorado facilities in September. "The conditions would have been ideal. Now we have to find another suitable training centre at above 6,000 feet," Emmerson added.

Briton's ranking boost

SKIING: Emma Carrick-Anderson, 19, Britain's leading slalom skier, has risen 31 places in the world rankings after finishing ninth in a strong field for the Europa Cup race in Zakopane, Poland, on Sunday. It was Carrick-Anderson's second top-ten finish in the cup and moved her from 72nd to 41st in the rankings. Her next appearance will be in the German national championships which take place later this week, followed by the World Cup in Maribor, Slovenia, at the weekend.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

Your hand is:

♠10 9 8 ♥Q J 5 4 ♦3 2 ♣8 7 6 4

The opposition has bid One Heart — Three Hearts — Six Hearts. What is your lead? The hand below from the Macallan Pairs may give you a clue.

	♠K Q J 10 ♥K 8 6 4 ♦K 10 3 ♣K J	
♠7 5 3 ♥2 ♦7 5 4 ♣Q 10 9 5 3 2	N W E S	♠9 6 4 2 ♥Q J 9 3 ♦J 2 ♣A 8 4
	♠A 8 ♥A 10 7 5 ♦A Q 9 8 6 ♣7 6	

Contract: Four hearts by South. Opening lead: ten of clubs

After opening 1NT South arrived in Four Hearts without mentioning diamonds. Forrester (West) led the ten of clubs, declarer played the jack and Robson (East) won the ace. When you have a trump holding like Q J 9 x, you do not want the declarer to make a safety play. This is the link to the lead question at the beginning of the column.

On this hand Robson switched to the the nine of spades at trick two, trying to appear like a man with a singleton. Declarer won in hand and played a heart to the king, on which Robson dropped the nine. When he played a second heart, Robson followed low, and now, no doubt afraid of the spade ruff, the declarer put up the ace. So Robson made two trump tricks — not much consolation for his side, as several North-South pairs went down in Six Hearts.

And your opening lead on the first hand? The two of diamonds. As this is your shortest suit, it is the one in which, from the declarer's point of view, you are most likely to have a singleton. This is therefore the lead most likely to induce the declarer to eschew the safety play.

KEENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Solving championship

The British Chess Problem Solving Championship has been won by David Friedgood. Runner-up was Grandmaster Jonathan Mestel. Entry to the competition was primarily through newspapers and there were four times as many qualifiers from *Times* readers among the finalists than from any other national newspaper.

Karpov wins

Today's game completes the publication of all the decisive games from the World Chess Federation semi-finals in Sanghi Nagar, India. With his victory in game 9, Karpov clinched the match by the score of 6-3 and he now goes on to meet the American Grandmaster Gata Kamsky in the World Chess Federation final.

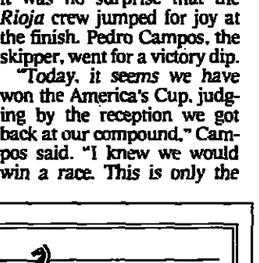
White: Boris Gelfand
Black: Anatoly Karpov
FIDE Candidates, Sanghi Nagar, February 1995

English Opening

1	c4	e5
2	g3	Nf6
3	Bg2	Nc6
4	Nf3	Bc5
5	0-0	d6
6	Nc3	0-0
7	d3	a6
8	a3	Nd4
9	Nd2	c6
10	b4	Ba7
11	Bb2	Bf5
12	e3	Ne6
13	Nf3	h6
14	Qb3	Qd7
15	Rad1	Bg4
16	Rd2	Rad8
17	Rc1	Bxf3
18	Bxf3	d5
19	cxd5	cxd5
20	Na4	d4
21	Nc5	Qe7
22	Rdc2	dxe3
23	bxe3	e4
24	Bxd6	gxf6
25	Bxe4	Ng5
26	Bxb7	Bxc5
27	bxc5	Qxe3+
28	Kh1	Rxd3
29	Qc4	Rfd8
30	Rf1	R8d4
31	Qxa6	Ne4
32	Rg2	Rd1
33	Bxe4	Qxe4
34	Qxd6	Qd5
35	Kg1	Rd1+
36	Kxf1	Rd1+

White resigns

Diagram of final position



Winning Move, page 40

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

MACMORRIS
a. An Irish captain
b. Macbeth's physician
c. A crony of Falstaff

BAVIAN
a. A turncoat
b. A dancer
c. A Danish courtier

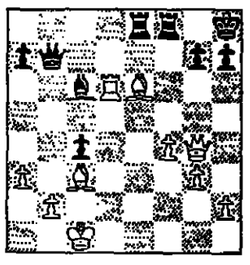
PHILO
a. A Syracusan traveller
b. A forlorn lover
c. A Roman introducer

PANTHINO
a. A pompous servant
b. A pedant
c. An unlucky suitor

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

This position is from the game de Firmian - Burgess, Gausdal 1995. Here White would like to win the black *queen* with 1 Bh6+ Qxh6 2 Rxh6, but then he loses his own to 2... Rxa4. How can he improve on this variation?



Solution, page 42

FOR THE RECORD

ATHLETICS

DIEKIRCH: Luxembourg: IAAF Cross Country Challenge 12th round (10km): 1, D Lewis (GB) 33:09, 2, R Watem (Bel) 33:13, 3 D Clarke (GB) 33.16. Women (5km): 1, G Szabo (Rom) 16'53, 2, J Koech (Kan) 17.35, 3, R Mann (Il) 17.35

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): New York 122 Houston 117; Indiana 106 Miami 87; Minnesota 100 Orlando 95; Washington 92 Denver 94; Phoenix 110 Utah 107; LA Lakers 93 Portland 83.

Eastern Conference

Atlantic division	W	L	Pct	GB
Orlando	39	12	.765	—
New York	33	17	.660	5½
Boston	20	30	.400	18½
New Jersey	21	32	.396	19
Miami	18	33	.360	20½
Philadelphia	15	36	.294	24
Washington	12	37	.245	26
Central division				
Charlotte	32	19	.627	—
Cleveland	31	19	.620	½
Indiana	30	20	.600	1½
Chicago	25	26	.490	7
Atlanta	24	27	.471	8
Milwaukee	20	31	.392	12
Detroit	18	32	.360	13½

Western Conference

Midwest division	W	L	Pct	GB
Utah	37	15	.712	—
San Antonio	32	16	.667	3
Houston	32	18	.640	4
Denver	21	29	.420	15
Dallas	19	29	.396	16
Minnesota	13	38	.255	23½
Pacific division				
Phoenix	40	11	.784	—
Seattle	35	14	.714	4
LA Lakers	31	17	.646	7½
Sacramento	28	20	.583	10½
Portland	26	23	.531	13
Golden State	15	34	.306	24
LA Clippers	9	42	.176	31

BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Chester 80 (Gardner 19, Bannister 16) Birmingham 83 (Simms 22, Lloyd 21); Doncaster 111 ((Fite 32, Jones 27, Joseph 17) London Towers 112 (Windless 33, Moore 18), Leicester 76 (Waldron 33, Treavant 18) Worthing Bears 89 (Herried 25, Cunningham 21, Lewis 19) (OT); Leopards 124 (Baker 30, Dawsaux 27, Youngblood 24) Sunderland 81 (Hopper 19, Nottage 18); Sheffield 84 (Cauthorn 20, Huggins 20) Thames Valley 87 (Bucknall 29, Holley 17).

BOWLS

PRESTON: World Indoor championships: Singles: Second round: M King (Eng) bt S Rees (Wal) 7-6, 7-2, 6-7, 7-1; G Allcock (Eng) bt N Burkett (SA) 7-2, 7-2, 5-7, 2-7, 7-5; A Allcock (Eng) bt N Burkett (SA) 7-2, 7-2, 5-7, 2-7, 7-5. Pairs: Quarter-finals: C Curtis and I Schuback (Aus) bt R Battersby and D Corkill (Ire) 6-7, 6-7, 7-4, 7-2, 7-4

CRICKET

WELLINGTON: Tour match (one day): Wellington 234-6 (M Douglas 100, J Allan 47) South Africans 234-7.

EQUESTRIANISM

BRUSSELS: Volvo World Cup qualifier: 1 Grannusch (J Whitaker, GB) clear, 38.37secs; 2, Twist Du Vallon (H Godignon, Fr) clear, 42.13; 3, Top Gun La Silla (J Tops, Hol) 4 faults, 35.81. Other British: 7, Bowmer Queen (J Fisher) 4, 39.22.

FOOTBALL

LIBERTADORES CUP: Group one: River Plate 1 Independiente 1

AFRICAN CHAMPIONS CUP: Preliminary round, second leg: Lobatse Gunners (Botswana) 2 Eleven Men in Flight (Swaz) 2 (in Gaborone)

GOLF

SONY WORLD RANKINGS (US unless stated): 1, N Price (Zim) 21 89 pts av; 2, G Norman (Aust) 19 68, 3, N Faldo (GB) 16 31, 4, J M Olazabal (Sp) 15.33; 5, E Els (SA) 15.13; 6, B Langer (Ger) 14.83; 7, F Couples 13.97; 8, C Montgomerie (GB) 12 72; 9, M Ozaki (Japan) 11.39, 10, C Pavin 9 90

HOCKEY

MEN'S NATIONAL LEAGUE

First division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Q Loughtos	9	7	1	1	29	11	22
Teddington	9	7	0	2	27	13	21
Guildford	10	6	1	3	34	17	19
Southgate	10	5	4	1	28	16	19
Reading	10	6	1	3	18	14	19
Surbiton	10	5	3	2	17	10	18
Hounslow	10	5	3	2	18	12	18
Cannock	8	5	2	1	27	9	17
Indian G	12	5	2	5	19	24	17
East Grinstead	10	4	1	5	19	16	13
Havant	9	3	3	3	15	17	12
Canterbury	11	2	5	4	18	21	11
Hull	10	3	1	6	13	29	10
Bournville	10	2	3	5	14	26	9
Stourport	9	2	2	5	12	20	8
Trojans	11	2	2	7	16	29	8
Slough	11	1	2	8	12	40	5
Firebrands	9	1	0	8	7	19	3

Second division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Brooklands	12	7	2	3	22	18	23
St Albans	10	7	1	2	27	14	22
Doncaster	12	6	4	2	21	12	22
Barford Tigers	12	7	1	4	24	18	22
Beeston	12	6	3	3	21	21	21
Isca	12	6	2	4	26	15	20
Bromley	12	5	3	4	16	13	18
Richmond	12	5	3	4	15	16	18
Gloucester City	12	5	2	5	27	23	17
Sheffield	12	5	2	5	24	21	17
Hampstead	11	4	3	3	15	14	17
Edgbaston	12	4	5	3	9	10	17
Oxford Univ	12	4	4	4	15	21	16
Harleston	12	4	2	6	14	16	14
Whitchurch	12	3	2	7	13	20	11
Crosbys	12	2	3	7	13	23	9
Neston	11	1	2	8	7	20	5
Cambridge	12	1	2	9	10	26	5

HA CUP: Quarter-final, draws: Guildford v Barford Tigers; Isca v Cannock or Reading; Southgate v Teddington, Formby v Richmond

NASTRO AZZURRO LEAGUE: Kent/Sussex: Belvedere 2 Tunbridge Wells 2; Crawley 1 Bexleyheath 5; Gravesend 1 Brighton 2; Herne Bay 0 Beckenham 1; Horsham 0 Mid Sussex 1; Marden Russets 9 Greenwich 0; Middleton 1 Tulse Hill 1; Old Bordenians 2 Sevenoaks 2; Old Holcombians 2 Old Williamonians 2. Postponed: Blackheath v Bognor.

WELSH WOMEN'S LEAGUE: Aberystwyth University 1 Colwyn Bay 3.

SCHOOLS: Christchurch: Western Counties women's association territorial tournament: Under-18: East 0 South 0; Midlands 0 North 0; West 0 East 2. Final standings: 1, Midlands; 2, East; 3, West; 4, North; 5, South. Under-16: North 2 Midlands 1, West 0 South 1; East 3 North 1. Final standings: 1, Midlands; 2, East; 3, North; 4, South; 5, West.

ICE HOCKEY

BRITISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Cardiff 8 Basingstoke 2, Humberside 13 Nottingham 7; Milton Keynes 6 Edinburgh 10; Peterborough 6 Fife 6; Sheffield 7 Bracknell 2; Whitley 4 Durham 7. First division: Blackburn 9 Guildford 5, Chelmsford 6 Medway 5; Dumfries 6 Paisley 14; Swindon 15 Lee Valley 2; Trafford 5 Slough 7.

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Chicago 4 Edmonton 1; Florida 1 Quebec 4; Pittsburgh 3 Buffalo 3 (OT).

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Northeast division	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
Quebec	13	2	0	56	29	26
Pittsburgh	12	1	2	66	42	26
Boston	8	5	1	42	36	17
Buffalo	6	6	2	28	30	14
Montreal	5	5	4	36	37	14
Hartford	4	8	3	37	39	11
Ottawa	2	9	2	27	42	6
Atlantic division						
NY Islanders	6	6	2	37	43	14
NY Rangers	8	7	2	38	39	18
Philadelphia	6	6	1	37	44	13
Tampa Bay	6	8	1	42	48	13
Florida	6	9	1	39	47	13
New Jersey	5	6	3	31	33	13
Washington	3	8	2	26	36	8

Western Conference

Central division	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
Chicago	9	4	1	56	30	19
Detroit	9	4	1	54	30	19
St Louis	8	5	1	55	44	17
Toronto	7	6	3	46	46	17
Winnipeg	4	8	3	45	56	11
Dallas	3	8	2	38	42	8
Pacific division						
Calgary	7	5	2	46	35	16
San Jose	7	5	2	32	40	16
Edmonton	6	7	2	41	50	14
Anaheim	5	8	1	32	53	11
Los Angeles	4	7	3	41	48	11
Vancouver	3	5	5	37	47	11

NORDIC SKIING

BAD GOISERN, Austria: World Cup: Nordic combined event (ski jumping 4m 15km cross-country): 1, K Ogwara (Japan) 239.0pts and 40:2mn 32.5sec; 2, K-T Apeland (Nor) 222.5, 40:15.4; 3, T-E Elden (Nor) 197.0, 39.38.1; 4, T Ogwara (Japan) 215.0, 40:33.2. World Cup standings: 1, Ogwara 1,145pts; 2, Ogwara 825; 3, B-E Vik (Nor) 801; 4, Apeland 773.

REAL TENNIS

ORATORY SCHOOL: Lord's Taverners Pro-celebrity championship. Final: J Embarey and J Howell bt R Knight and R Gunn 6-3.

SHOOTING

ALDERSLEY: British Air Pistol championships: British Open: Men: 1, M Gault (Norwich) 678.6; 2, N Baxter (Bedford) 673.2, 3, P Lesthersdale (Norwich) 671.3. Women: 1, C Page (Marylebone) 474.8; 2, L Elsworth (Morpeth) 469.2; 3, B Barber (Chasthunt) 468.7. Junior Men's Open (after tie shoot): 1, S Martin (Portslade) 569/9 7; 2, S Preston (Jubilee York) 569/8 3. Junior Women's Open: 1, F Beaseville (Lichfield) 449.5, 2, S Bird (East Bristol) 447.4; 3, N Trebert (Guernsey) 438.8. British Running Target championship: 1, J Maddison (BSRC) 649 (566 plus 93); 2, D Chapman (BSRC) 647.7 (555/92); 3, J Haines (Whiteheads) 598.2 (506/88.2).

STUDENT SPORT

JACA, Spain: Winter world Student Games: Skiing: Women: Downhill: 1, A Larionova (Russ) 1min 48.33sec; 2, M Brechu (Fr) 1:48.84; 3, C Felisaz (Fr) 1:49.25. Nordic skiing: Men (15km): 1, A Tregubov (Belo) 40:29.9; 2, F Semenzato (It) 41:09.4; 3, D Azegami (Japan) 41:17.0. Ski jumping (90m) 1, Y Fukita (Japan) (94.5m, 94.0m) 241.0pts; 2, F Petek (Slovenia) (93.0, 90.5) 235.5; 3, H Yasugi (Japan) (87.0, 92.0) 226.5.

TENNIS

MEMPHIS: men's tournament: Final: T Martin (US) bt P Haarhuis (Holl) 7-5, 6-4. OKLAHOMA CITY: Women's tournament: Final: B Schultz (Holl) bt E Likhovtseva 6-1, 6-2.

STUTTGART: Men's indoor tournament: First round: D Wheaton (US) bt J Sánchez (Sp) 6-4, 7-5; T Mosar (Austria) bt A Gaudenzi (It) 6-2, 5-1 ret; B Karbacher (Ger) bt J Stoltenberg (Aus) 6-4, 6-1.

YACHTING

SAN DIEGO: America's Cup: Citizen Cup (defender's series): Young America (K Mahaney) bt Stars & Stripes (D Conner) by 8min 35sec. Standings: 1, Young America 17pts; 2, Stars & Stripes 13; 3, America³ 7. Louis Vuitton Cup (Challenger's series): oneAustralia (J Bertrand) bt Nippon Challenge (M Nambu) 8:40; Rioja de Espana (P Campos) bt Sydney 95 (C Beashel) 11:26; Tag Heuer Challenger (C Dickson) bt France³ (M Paiot) 6:23. Standings: 1, Team New Zealand 28; equal 2, oneAustralia and Tag Heuer Challenge 26; 4, Nippon Challenge 14; 5, Sydney 95 8; 6, France³ 7; 7 Rioja de Espana 4.

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هكذا من الاصل


JULIAN HERBERT

One Man attempts to add the Racing Post Chase at Kempton Park on Saturday to his impressive Hennessy Gold Cup success

Kempton offers Festival hints

BY JULIAN MUSCAT

THE time of year dictates that all roads lead to the Cheltenham Festival, yet one of them will be paved with gold if last year's events are any guide. Twelve months ago, the corresponding card at Kempton Park on Saturday served as a springboard for no fewer than eight Festival winners.

Racegoers making the pilgrimage to Prestbury Park in three weeks would be well advised to attend the Sunbury fixture, for which a plethora of Festival aspirants were yesterday entered for the five graded races, headed by the Racing Post Chase. Of the 14 declared, Cache Fleur, One Man, Zeta's Lad and Whispering Steel are also engaged in the Greenalls Gold Cup at Haydock Park on the same day. The last named three are intended runners at Kempton.

Incidentally, the Greenalls Gold Cup was won last year by Master Oats after being transferred to Kempton on Haydock's abandonment. It is remarkable how Kim Bailey's chaser, who was not among the future Cheltenham winners on show that day, has since progressed to clear and deserved favouritism for the Gold Cup.

In spite of the incessant rain, Bailey is taking nothing for granted with his soft-ground specialist. "The Greenalls Gold Cup was run in heavy ground last year but it was good to firm by the time of the Gold Cup," he pointed out. "As for the horse, he is doing his usual thing, going out twice a day."

Two more Bailey-trained Cheltenham aspirants, Alderbrook and Simple Arithmetic, have engagements at Kempton. Subject to a satisfactory blood test tomorrow, the latter will tackle the Kempton Park Novices' Hurdle on Friday. But the preferred destination of Alderbrook, who has been pleasing his trainer at home, is Wincanton on Thursday.

Also doubly-engaged at the Somerset track and at Kempton is the King George VI runner-up, Monsieur Le Cure. The horse's trainer, John Edwards, is keeping his options open. Monsieur Le Cure would again encounter Algan, his King George conqueror, should he take the Racing Post Chase option.

Monsieur Le Cure prefaced his Sun Alliance Chase victory with success in the Pendil Novices' Chase at Kempton 12 months ago. This year's renewal features a quick return to the track for Dancing Paddy, who fell for the second time in three outings over fences when favourite for the Michael Seely Nottinghamshire Novices' Chase on Saturday.

Ken Cunningham-Brown, who trains Dancing Paddy, said yesterday: "He is super in his schooling at home so it makes sense to take him back to the races. He needs more racecourse experience and there is more than two weeks between Saturday's race and the Arkle Trophy."

Elsewhere on the supporting card, Viking Flagship, the Champion Chase winner, has been found an ideal opportunity to restore his confidence in the Emblem Chase. The eight-year-old, trained by David Nicholson, faces a maximum of 11 opponents.

Nicholson also fields the Triumph Hurdle favourite, Silver Wedge, in the Adonis Hurdle over two miles. Mysilv landed this event for the Nicholson stable 12 months ago before following up in the Triumph, and Silver Wedge will take similar credentials to Cheltenham if he can impose himself on the 18 opponents entered against him here.

All is not gloom in respect of the field sizes at Cheltenham. Despite the shortage of horses of Champion Hurdle calibre, a 472-strong entry was yesterday published for the seven Festival handicaps, 75 of them from across the Irish Sea.

Richard Dunwoody returns from a 30-day suspension to partner Allegation in the Regency Hurdle at Warwick this afternoon. The champion jockey had intended to resume at Fontwell Park yesterday but the meeting was abandoned because of waterlogging.

Somerset track and at Kempton is the King George VI runner-up, Monsieur Le Cure. The horse's trainer, John Edwards, is keeping his options open. Monsieur Le

RACING POST HANDICAP CHASE
Kempton, February 25

RACING AHEAD
Robert Wright suggests the best value in the ante-post market

THE Racing Post Chase at Kempton has, in recent seasons, been one of the highlights of the National Hunt calendar for punters. Apart from being a good betting medium in its own right, the race is invariably run at a sound pace which makes the form rock solid. This point was rammed home last year by the Cheltenham Festival victories of the winner (Antonin—Ritz Club), third (The Fellow—Gold Cup), fourth (Elfast—Mildmay of Flete) and sixth (Fighting Words—Kim Muir). The Kempton runner-up, Docklands Express, finished sixth in the Gold Cup before winning the Martell Cup at Aintree.

This year's renewal has again attracted a high-class entry, headed by Algan and Monsieur Le Cure, first and second in the King George over course and distance on Boxing Day. However, both appear to have plenty of weight, while there are stamina doubts about the well handicapped Amtrak Express.

One Man, the impressive Hennessy winner, is a worthy favourite but his trainer, Gordon Richards, has not saddled a winner for five weeks and there must be doubts as to the wellbeing of his string. Of much greater interest is last year's winner, ANTONIN, who appears to have been written off by the bookmakers, with William Hill and A R Dennis offering an insulting 25-1. He has suffered a series of niggling problems this season, but looked to be returning to form when travelling well for a long way when sixth to Deep Bramble at Sandown. He was found to be coughing when subsequently disappointing at Fairyhouse, but his trainer, Sue Bramall, reports that he is fit and well again and he runs off just a pound higher handicap mark than when winning the Ritz Club at last year's Festival by ten lengths.

GUIDE TO THE PRICES

	A R Dennis	Hills	Ladbrokes	Total
One Man	5-2	11-4	2-1	11-4
Algan	7-1	6-1	5-1	6-1
Monsieur Le Cure	10-1	9-1	8-1	8-1
Lusty Light	6-1	8-1	10-1	6-1
Amtrak Express	8-1	7-1	10-1	8-1
Val D'Alene	10-1	12-1	7-1	10-1
Sheer Ability	6-1	8-1	12-1	8-1
Whispering Steel	10-1	10-1	10-1	10-1
Crystal Spirit	12-1	10-1	14-1	11-1
Zeta's Lad	16-1	7-1	8-1	14-1
Southolt	16-1	16-1	20-1	16-1
Antonin	25-1	25-1	20-1	20-1
Cache Fleur	33-1	33-1	33-1	33-1
Forest Sun	40-1	40-1	33-1	33-1

WEEKEND ACCEPTORS

KEMPTON PARK

2.25 EMBLEM CHASE (£6,840: 2m) (12 five-day acceptors)

Anstey Gadabout (trained by D Bassett); Around The Horn (J Gifford); Atlast (J Jenkins); Bold Choice (R Frost); Clay County (M Hammond); Cyphrate (M Pipe); Medinas Swan Song (R Hodges); Sound Reveille (C Brooks); Spree Cross (Mrs D Haine); Thumbs Up (N Henderson); Uncle Ernie (Jimmy Fitzgerald); Viking Flagship (D Nicholson)

3.00 WEEKLY JOURNAL PENDIL NOVICES CHASE (Grade II: £11,129: 2m 4f 110yd) (14 acceptors)

So Knows Best (G L Moore); Brief Gale (J Gifford); Camitrov (S Christian); Dancing Paddy (K Cunningham-Brown); Juliett Jonas (P Butler); Kadi (D Nicholson); Martingford (Mrs J Jordan); Montebel (N Twiston-Davies); Oatis Regrets (Miss H Knight); Parson's Way (A Jones); Pennine Pass (D Williams); Road To Fame (D Gandolfo); Sound Reveille (C Brooks); Tug Of Peace (G Balding).

4.10 RACING POST CHASE (Grade III, handicap: £29,700: 3m) (14 acceptors)

Algan (F Doumen, Fr); Amtrak Express (N Henderson); Antonin (Mrs S Bramall); Cache Fleur (M Pipe); Crystal Spirit (I Balding); Forest Sun (C Brooks); Lusty Light (Mrs J Pitman); Monsieur Le Cure (J Edwards); One Man (G Richards); Sheer Ability (C Mann); Southolt (G Hubbard); Val D'Alene (F Doumen); Whispering Steel (K Bailey); Zeta's Lad (C Brooks).

HAYDOCK PARK

2.30 GREENALLS GOLD CUP (Handicap chase: £23,957: 3m 4f 110yd) (18 acceptors)

Cache Fleur (M Pipe); Capability Brown (R Price), Cool Ground (D Elsworth); Earth Summit (N Twiston-Davies); Just So (H Cole); Nuaffe (P Fahy, Ire); OK Corral (C Mann); One Man (G Richards); Over The Deal (J Johnson); Party Politics (N Gaselee); Plenty Crack (B Mactaggart); Riverside Boy (M Pipe), Romany King (K Bailey); Run For Free (M Pipe); Superior Finish (Mrs J Pitman); Vicompt De Valmont (P Nicholls); Whispering Steel (K Bailey), Zeta's Lad (C Brooks).

England A take their lead from Gallian and Wells

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

ENGLAND A made a successful start to the final leg of their winter cricket tour yesterday, beating a Bangladesh XI by 58 runs at the National Stadium in Dhaka to win the first of their two one-day international matches.

England outshone the home team in all departments and thoroughly deserved their victory on a pitch that helped neither batsmen nor bowlers. "The pitch was a disgrace," Alan Wells, the captain, said. "It cracked, it crumbled and it looked like plasticine."

A fighting half-century from Jason Gallian gave England the impetus to overcome the sluggish wicket and build a formidable total of 203 for eight from 50 overs after Wells had decided to bat.

The Lancashire batsman, 23, dug England out of trouble after they had lost Knight and Vaughan with only 19 on the board. Gallian, the man of the match, raced to 58 from just 76 balls. His innings was complemented by another valuable supporting role by Wells, who made 47.

Bangladesh were soon in trouble, losing three quick wickets to the lively new-ball attack of Johnson and Cork, and never recovered, finishing on 145 for eight.

ENGLAND A

N V Knight c and b Ansur	0
M P Vaughan b Saiful	5
J E R Gallian c Masud b Minhazul	58
*A P Wells c Aminul b Nasmur	47
D L Hemp run out	3
P N Weekes not out	38
D G Cork c and b Minhazul	6
†P A Nixon lbw b Ansur	6
R L Johnson run out	22
Extras (b 5, lb 5, w 8, nb 2)	20
Total (8 wkts, 50 overs)	209

I D K Salisbury and M M Patel did not bat

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-1, 2-16, 3-115, 4-127, 5-131, 6-144, 7-157, 8-203.

BOWLING: Ansur Rahman 9-0-28-2, Saiful Islam 9-1-26-1; Athar Ali 10-2-29-0; Enamul Hoque 3-0-15-0, Mohammad Rafiq 3-0-26-0; Minhazul Abedin 10-0-43-2, Nasmur Rahman 6-0-24-1

BANGLADESH XI

Jahangir Alam c Nixon b Johnson	1
Athar Ali b Johnson	4
Aminul Islam b Cork	1
Nasmur Rahman c Knight b Patel	10
Minhazul Abedin b Cork	34
*Akram Khan run out	5
Enamul Hoque c Nixon b Patel	11
Mohammad Rafiq b Weekes	30
†Masud Khaled not out	24
Saiful Islam not out	2
Extras (lb 7, w 15, nb 1)	23
Total (8 wkts, 50 overs)	145

Ansur Rahman did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS. 1-11, 2-12, 3-15, 4-34, 5-53, 6-81, 7-90, 8-136.

BOWLING: Johnson 10-1-27-2, Cork 8-1-11-2, Gallian 3-0-9-0, Patel 8-1-28-2, Weekes 10-2-30-1; Salisbury 10-3-28-0, Wells 1-0-5-0

Umpires: Akteruddin Shaheen and Jahangir Alam

Cambridge lay down challenge

THE formalities for the annual varsity hockey match, on February 28 at Reading, were completed in London yesterday with the Cambridge captain, Tom McCarthy, challenging his Oxford counterpart, Peter Bell, for the Rose Bowl, which Oxford have held for the past four years (Sydney Friskin writes).

Relative strengths indicate that the issue is more open than last year, Oxford having lost much of the talent that took them to a 5-0 victory.

OXFORD: N Richards (Abingdon and University), S Culliford (Strode School, Street, and St Catherine's), T Griffiths (Whitgift and Keble), *J Pratt (Trent College and University), *P Bell (Campbell College, Belfast, and Lincoln, captain), W Kendall (Bradfield and Keble), *S Griffiths (Whitgift and University), *R MacDowel (Radley and St Benet's Hall), M Barr (Canterbury University, NZ, and New College), H Tewes (Bristol University and Keble), *A Latif (Magdelen CS, Oxford, and Bressenose), W Grasswell (King's, Taunton and Pembroke), *Arshad Khan (RGS High Wycombe and Christ Church), *D Edwards (Epsom and St Edmund Hall), A Walther (Hohe Landeschule and Keble), P Hayward-Butt (Natal University and Keble)

CAMBRIDGE: *D Lynche (Friends' School, Lisburn, and Calus), M Stott (Wellington College and Pembroke), D Harding (RGS High Wycombe and Robinson), D Churton (Wellington College and St Catharine's), *M Carver (King Edward VI, Southampton and Hughes Hall), *R Stevens (St Cyres, Penarth, and Hughes Hall), *T McCarthy (Simon Langton GS and St John's, captain), C Carter (RGS High Wycombe and Girton), J Schulten (Rynlands and Queens'), R Ragnauth (Perse and Trinity Hall), A Salmsbury (Harrogate GS and Pembroke), *R Cake (KCS Wimbledon and St John's), P Mansour (Whitgift and Pembroke), S Sherciff (Wells Cathedral and St Catharine's), S Warren (Cheltenham and Emmanuel), P Piotrowicz (Ratcliffe, Leicester, and Fitzwilliam)

* s Blue

WARWICK

THUNDERER

2.00 Double Silk
2.30 Top Spin
3.00 Scotton Banks
3.30 Putty Road
4.00 Southampton
4.30 Easy Buck
5.00 Voolino

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 2.30 ALLEGATION.

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT (CHASE COURSE); SOFT (HURDLES) SIS

2.00 BZW HUNTERS CHASE
(Amateurs: £1,256: 3m 2f) (6 runners)

1	1111F-1	DOUBLE SILK 14 (CD,F,G,S) (R Wakley) R Williams 11-12-8	R Treloggen (3)	
2	15P/P	SWEATSHIRT 11 (S) (Stewart Pike) S Pike 10-12-2	M Felton (3)	–
3	R0OF-	ARCTIC LINE 2959 (G Green) S Green 7-11-9	P Scott (7)	–
4	518-2	KERRY HILL 2559 (G) (W Owens) R Davies 9-11-9	M Jackson (7)	–
5	12P/P	RECTORY BOY 7389 (F,S) (B Llewellyn) B Llewellyn 12-11-9	J L Llewellyn (5)	–
6	U53-	THE MERRY GAMBLER 2939 (S) (A Norman) L Grassick 13-11-9	J Grassick (7)	–

BETTING: 1-10 Double Silk, 12-1 Kerry Hill, Sweatshirt, 16-1 Rectory Boy, 25-1 The Merry Gambler, Arctic Line

1994: MEETING ABANDONED — SNOW

FORM FOCUS

DOUBLE SILK best Cape Cottage 25l in 5-runner hunter chase over course and distance (good to soft) SWEATSHIRT pulled up behind Cool Relation in 9-runner hunter chase at Newbury (2m 4f, heavy). ARCTIC LINE 60l 7th of 11 to Rah Wan in hunter chase at Cheltenham (2m, good to firm) on penultimate start, May 1994. KERRY HILL head 2nd of 10 to Commodity Broker in restricted point-to-point at Hereford (3m, good to firm). RECTORY BOY best effort distance 2nd of 3 to Bad Trade in handicap chase at Uttoxeter (2m 4f, good) April 1992. THE MERRY GAMBLER 18l 3rd of 5 to Circus Escape in hunt point-to-point at Andoversford (3m, firm) May 1994. Selection: DOUBLE SILK

2.30 REGENCY HURDLE
(Grade II: £9,920: 2m 4f 110yd) (8 runners)

1	/SP0P	AL ASOOF 14 (F,G,S) (Peter Redding) P Hedger 10-11-9	M Richards	50
2	4-1P31	NANTHEN LAD 12 (D,G,S) (J Shaw) Mrs J Pitman 6-11-9	W Marston	71
3	P-42261	TOP SPIN 3 (D,F,G,S) (Mrs E Long) J Jenkins 5-11-9	A Maguire	94
4	21112P	ALLEGATION 17 (V,CD,G,S) (Martin Pipe Racing Club) M Pipe 5-11-5	R Dunwoody	
5	1101-2P	BALLET ROYAL 17 (S,S) (H Manners) H Manners 6-11-5	M Appleby	75
6	422352	HIGH GRADE 31 (D,G,S) (Under Orders Racing III) Miss S Wilton 7-11-5	T Eley	74
7	5-66416	LUCKY BLUE 26 (D,BF,S) (Mrs S Palmer) N Thomson 8-11-5	R Farrant	66
8	100-223	PONTYNYSWEN 3F (B,BF,G,S) (J Thomas) D Burchell 7-11-5	D J Burchell	84

BETTING: 9-4 Allegation, 5-2 Nanthen Lad, 11-4 Top Spin, 7-1 High Grade, 8-1 Pontynyswen, 16-1 Ballet Royal, 20-1 others.

FORM FOCUS

AL ASOOF 43l last of 7 to Mystiv in handicap hurdle at Cheltenham (2m 1f, good to soft) on penultimate start. NANTHEN LAD best Deduce 2½l in 6-runner novice hurdle at Huntingdon (2m 5f 110yd, good to soft). TOP SPIN beat Shutan 10l in 6-runner handicap hurdle at Chepstow (2m 4f 110yd, heavy). ALLEGATION best recent effort beat Capeaway 15l in 7-runner handicap hurdle over course and distance (good). BALLET ROYAL ½l 2nd of 9 to Society Guest in amateurs handicap hurdle at Chepstow (2m 110yd, good to soft) on penultimate start. HIGH GRADE ½l 2nd of 7 to Ask The Governor in handicap hurdle at Kempton (2m 5f, heavy). LUCKY BLUE beat Fools Errand 7l in 13-runner handicap hurdle at Windsor (2m 4f, soft) on penultimate start. PONTYNYSWEN 15l and neck 3rd of 8 to Kyllan Castle in novice chase at Hereford (2m, good to soft). Selection: TOP SPIN

3.00 BEAUCHAMP NOVICES CHASE
(£7,035: 3m 2f) (7 runners)

1	0-F1114	BROWNHALL 38 (BF,G,S) (R Wade) D Nicholson 7-11-10	A Maguire	94
2	321133	COKENNY BOY 35 (F,G,S) (S Hemstock) Mrs J Pitman 10-11-10	W Marston	81
3	11P112	GREENHIL TARE AWAY 38 (D,F,G,S) (Mrs P Payne) P Hobbs 7-11-10	Peter Hobbs	80
4	P5-1113	SCOTTON BANKS 31 (BF,G,S) (I Bray) M H Easterby 6-11-10	M Bosley	57
5	525U44	DI MIDDA 41 (V) (C Marks (Kanbury)) J Bosley 6-11-2	R Davis	–
6	000-P5P	WOODLANDS POWER 80 (Woodlands Ltd) P Pritchard 7-11-2	W Humphreys	50
7	/P2P5-6	ROSCOE'S GEMMA 52 (N Thick) N Thick 11-10-11	W Marston	

BETTING: 2-1 Scotton Banks, 5-2 Greenhill Tare Away, 3-1 Brownhall, 7-2 Cokenny Boy, 33-1 Di Midda, 50-1 Woodlands Power, Roscoe's Gemma.

FORM FOCUS

BROWNHALL beat Mad Thyme 20l at 6-runner grade I Tripleprint Novice Chase at Kempton (3m, soft) on penultimate start. COKENNY BOY 10l 3rd of 7 to Pashto in novice chase at Cheltenham (2m 5f, good to soft) on penultimate start. GREENHIL TARE AWAY 2lh 2nd of 6 to Brave Highlander in novice chase at Ascot (3m 110yd, soft), with Cokenny Boy 7l 3rd and BROWNHALL 21½l 4th. SCOTTON BANKS beat Spartan Silver 8l in novice chase at Nottingham (3m 110yd, good to soft) on penultimate start. DI MIDDA tailed off 40l of 12 to Desperate in novice chase at Plumpton (3m 1f 110yd, soft). ROSCOE'S GEMMA 91½l 6th of 9 to Countess Veruschka in novice handicap chase at Nottingham (2m 5f 110yd, good to soft). Selection: GREENHIL TARE AWAY (nap)

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Carlisle off

THE fixture at Carlisle today has been called off because of waterlogging. Johnny Fenwick-Clennell, the clerk of the course, said: "There is casual water on the track."

☐ The British Horseracing Board has sanctioned an extra replacement jumping fixture at Folkestone on April 13.

GUIDE TO OUR IN-LINE RACECARD

101 1131-43 GOOD TIMES 13 (BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Rogerson) E Hall 12-0 ..... B West (7) 88

Racecard number. Six-figure form (F — fell, P — pulled up, U — unseated rider, B — brought down, S — slipped up, R — refused, D — disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing: F if flat, (B — blinkers, V — visor, H — hood, E — Eyeshield, C — course winner, D — distance winner, CD — course and distance winner, BF — beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard, G — good, S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. The Times Private Handicapper's rating.

3.30 COVENTRY CITY NOVICES TRIAL HURDLE
(£6,840: 2m 4f 110yd) (5 runners)

1	5-511PP	BETTER BYTHE GLASS 3 (S) R Twiston-Davies 6-11-12	D Bridgwater	86
2	41-1141	PUTTY ROAD 38 (G) (Lady Harris) D Nicholson 5-11-12	A Maguire	
3	4U-1144	BALLYMAC GIRL 5 (G,S) (L Bowles) J Bradley 7-11-7	N Williamson	84
4	6-32202	PRIME OF LIFE 31 (Mrs T Matthews) J Eustace 5-11-3	S McNeill	85
5	040-000	LENEY MOSS 57 (D Travers-Clark) A Chamberlain 5-10-12	B Powell	–

BETTING: 4-7 Putty Road, 5-1 Ballymac Girl, 6-1 Better Bythe Glass, Prime Of Life, 33-1 Leney Moss.

FORM FOCUS

BETTER BYTHE GLASS best recent effort dead-heated with Maybe O'Grady beating Little Summer 1l in 11-runner novice hurdle at Haydock (2m, GI, good to soft). PUTTY ROAD beat Man Of Arran 11l in 10-runner conditions hurdle at Leopardstown (2m, yielding). BALLYMAC GIRL best recent effort beat Very Very Ordinary 12l in 11-runner novice hurdle at Towcester (2m 5f, good). PRIME OF LIFE best recent effort 31½l 2nd of 14 to Feel The Power in novice hurdle at Newbury (2m 5f, good to soft). LENEY MOSS 55l 10th of 11 to Mountmead in mares' National Hunt flat race at Down Royal (3m, heavy). Selection: PUTTY ROAD

4.00 TOPLIS & HARDING HANDICAP HURDLE (£3,737: 2m) (7 runners)

1	U24103/	STORM DUST 665 (D,G,S) (A Thom) R Phillips 6-11-12	J Railton	–
2	4-44425	FONTANAYS 12 (D,S) (Pegasus Racing Press) Mrs M McCourt 7-10-12	G McCourt	97
3	12/FP-F3	FIERCE 12 (D,F,S) (P Piper) J Jenkins 7-10-11	A Maguire	95
4	F2311P	SOUTHAMPTON 15 (V,CD,BF,F,G,S) (Highflyers) G Balding 5-10-11	A P McCoy (3)	91
5	215/006-	HIDDEN OATS 475 (D,F,S) (T Jakiewicz) Miss C Johnsey 8-10-7	L Harvey	90
6	3-23341	MARINER'S AIR 19 (CD,S) (Mrs P Badger) J Spearing 8-10-3	N Williamson	
7	1F5-006	ARTIC WINGS 84 (D,G,S) (Lady Anne Bentinck) D Barron 7-10-1	M Brennan	–

BETTING: 5-2 Mariner's Air, 3-1 Fierce, 7-2 Southampton, 6-1 Hidden Oats, 8-1 Fontanays, 10-1 Storm Dust, 12-1 Artic Wings.

FORM FOCUS

STORM DUST 4l 3rd to Caribou Gold in handicap hurdle at Ascot (2m 110yd, good) April 1993. FONTANAYS 14½ 2nd to The Caumsa in handicap hurdle at Wincanton (2m, soft) on penultimate start. FIERCE 14½l 3rd to Amigos in handicap hurdle at Huntingdon (2m 110yd, good to soft), with FONTANAYS 16¾l 5th. SOUTHAMPTON best keep Me in Mind 2½l in handicap hurdle at Windsor (2m, good) on penultimate start. HIDDEN OATS 31½l 2nd to Jamestown Boy in handicap hurdle at Uttoxeter (2m 4f 110yd, good) November 1999. MARINER'S AIR best Fox Chapel 1l in handicap hurdle at Towcester (2m, heavy). ARTIC WINGS 35¾l 6th to Silver Standard in handicap hurdle at Leicester (2m 4f 110yd, good to soft). Selection: SOUTHAMPTON

4.30 SKY BLUE HANDICAP CHASE (£7,156: 2m 4f 110yd) (6 runners)

1	24041-P	RICHVILLE 97 (D,F,G,S) (Major-Gen R Burges) K Bailey 9-12-0	N Williamson	94
2	5510-55	CATCH THE CROSS 53 (B,CD,F,G,S) (D Besinck) K Morgan 9-11-7	A S Smith	98
3	311-212	EASY BUCK 52 (CD,BF,F,G,S) (J & J Cook) N Gaselee 8-11-0	C Maude	97
4	334/11P	PASHTO 57 (D,BF,G,S) (R Tooth) N Henderson 8-10-13	M A Fitzgerald	90
5	F-54420	GAY RUFFIAN 38 (C,D,G,S) (B McHugh) A Jarvis 9-10-3	A Maguire	
6	420PP-F	FILE CONCORD 180 (CD,G,S) (Jet Stationery) Mrs J Pitman 11-10-0	W Marston	–

Long handicap: File Concord 9-11

BETTING: 6-4 Easy Buck, 5-2 Pashto, 4-1 Richville, 7-1 Catch The Cross, 10-1 File Concord, 12-1 Gay Ruffian.

FORM FOCUS

RICHVILLE best Midfielder 31½l in 6-runner handicap chase at Uttoxeter (2m 5f, good to firm) on penultimate start, April 1994. CATCH THE CROSS tailed off 5th of 6 to Jailbreaker in handicap chase at Leicester (2m 4f 110yd, good to soft). EASY BUCK beat Cache Fleur 23½l to 7-runner handicap chase over course and distance (good) on penultimate start. PASHTO beat The Frog Prince 8l in 7-runner novice chase at Cheltenham (2m 5f, good to soft) on penultimate start. GAY RUFFIAN 4l 2nd in match with Tourism Prince in handicap chase at Folkestone (2m 5f, soft) on penultimate start. FILE CONCORD fell 7th behind Darkbrook in 4-runner conditional jockeys handicap chase at Worcester (2m 4f 110yd, good to firm). Selection: EASY BUCK

5.00 WARWICK NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (£1,445: 2m) (19 runners)

1	13	DENISE'S PROFILES 31 (S) (Exterior Ltd) N Twiston-Davies 5-11-10	Mr M Rimell (7)	–
2	10	HERITOR 12 (BF,S) (Mrs R Coppock) M Pipe 5-11-10	L Reynolds (7)	–
3	1U	LORD MCMURROUGH 3 (S) (14 & N Plant Ltd) R Simpson 5-11-10	Mr E Williams (7)	–
4		BERTRAGHBOY BAY (Mrs D Stears) G Balding 5-11-3	Ross Berry (7)	–
5		DANTES CAVALIER (T Whatley) D Gandolfo 5-11-3	D Leahy (3)	–
6		DUKE OF LEE (G Fres) J Poulton 5-11-3	G Cruse (7)	–
7	D-	HIGHWAY LAD 334 (M White) R Hodges 6-11-3	T Jenks	–
8	62	INTERMASSIC 13 (Mrs J Cleary) G Balding 5-11-3	S Fox (5)	–
9	S	ORGAN RECITAL 19 (Lady Anne Bentinck) O Brennan 6-11-3	S O'Donnell (7)	–
10		TURSAL (T Donnelly) T Donnelly 6-11-3	J Rice (7)	–
11		UNCLE BERT (G Reaton) Mrs M McCourt 5-11-3	D Carson (7)	–
12	0	VENDEE 19 (Miss J Doyle) Miss J Doyle 6-10-12	S Curran (3)	–
13	3	WOODLAND 14 (Mrs V Neck) Mrs J Renton-Baron 5-10-12	Mr S Shenton (7)	–
14	D	CHINA BYE 34 (Mrs B Brown) Mrs A Price 4-10-7	Mr R Johnson (7)	–
15	0	MELLING 34 (Miss R Dobson) R Hodges 4-10-7	J Harris (7)	–
16		SURF DANCER (T Johnsey) Miss C Johnsey 4-10-7	A P McCoy (3)	–
17		GILDORANS LASS (G Boddy) J Upson 4-10-2	J Supple (5)	–
18		MISS CASHTAL (Miss D Baker) Miss D Baker 4-10-2	Miss S Wallin (7)	–
19	0	RUBADUB 34 (The Tote End Racing Club) J Bradley 4-10-2	Guy Lewis (5)	–

BETTING: 7-2 Intermagor, 5-1 Deuce's Profiles, Voolino, 7-1 Heritor, 8-1 Lord McMurrough, 10-1 Gildorans Lass, 12-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Runs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
R Wilkins	2	2	100.0	Mr R Treloggen	3	3	100.0
M Pipe	33	134	24.6	R Dunwoody	41	119	34.5
N Gaselee	9	37	24.3	A P McCoy	3	9	33.3
D Nicholson	25	110	22.7	L Wyer	3	11	27.3
N Henderson	11	52	21.2	T Jenks	6	31	19.4
R Hodges	4	21	19.0	N Williamson	10	53	18.9

LINGFIELD PARK

THUNDERER

2.20 Cannizaro. 2.50 Awesome Power. 3.20 Birequest. 3.50 Bon Secret. 4.20 PERILOUS PLIGHT (nap). 4.50 Zuno Noelyn.

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 2.20 TOP FELLA (nap). 3.20 Birequest. 3.50 Black Shadow.

GOING: STANDARD SIS

DRAW: 6F-1M, LOW NUMBERS BEST

2.20 DORDOGNE MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES (3-Y-O: £2,751: 1m) (12 runners)

101	(6)	04-0	ALKA INTERNATIONAL 26 J White 9-0	S Drowne (5)	98
102	(10)	00	CROCODILE ROCK 17 (V) M Heaton-Ellis 9-0	Stephen Davies	–
103	(8)	53	DEATH BY CHOCOLATE 10 J Scargill 9-0	D Wright (3)	92
104	(9)		HE'S SPECIAL C Cyzer 9-0	T Ives	
105	(11)	300-	TOP FELLA 130 W O'Gorman 9-0	Emma O'Gorman (3)	
106	(2)	0	VASLAV NIJINSKY 18 G Rimmer 8-0	M Rimmer	–
107	(3)	6-5	BROOKE WOOD 5 Miss B Sanders 8-9	Amanda Bowen (7)	–
108	(7)		CANNIZARO R Williams 8-9	L Dettori	–
109	(1)	00-	DANNY'S GIFT 102 Miss A Whitfield 8-9	S Sanders (3)	–
110	(4)	0-	GUYMICHELLE 176 R Ingram 8-9	T Williams	–
111	(5)	5	ROCKY FORUM 10 G L Moore 8-9	R Perham	90
112	(12)		ROOKERY GIRL D Morris 8-9	C Rutter	–

7-4 Top Fella, 4-1 Death By Chocolate, 9-2 Alka International, 7-1 Rocky Forum, 10-1 He's Special, Cannizaro, 12-1 others.

2.50 SEINE CLAIMING STAKES (£2,967: 1m 2f) (5)

201	(5)	440-	TAPATCH 111J (F) J Wainwright 7-9-7	Dean McKeown	73
202	(3)	2-23	AWESOME POWER 24 (CD,BF,G) J Hills 9-9-1	L Dettori	96
203	(1)	0121	MASNUN 14 (CD,F,G,S) R O'Sullivan 10-8-11	A Clark	89
204	(4)	/00-	ARAFEL 52J C James 4-8-5	J Weaver	–
205	(2)	60-0	BELFORT RULER 21 (F) B Gubby 8-8-5	J Stack (5)	80

4-5 Awesome Power, 7-4 Masnun, 7-1 Tapatch, 16-1 Belfort Ruler, 25-1 Arafel.

3.20 DAILY STAR AWT CHALLENGE SERIES HANDICAP (Qualifier: £3,864: 1m 2f) (9)

301	(6)	-031	SECRET ALY 12 (CD,G) C Brittain 5-10-0	M Rimmer	97
302	(3)	-112	BIREQUEST 12 (CD,BF,G) R Boss 4-9-9	L Dettori	98
303	(4)	621-	MISTY SILKS 119 (G,S) M Ryan 5-9-8	A Clark	92
304	(5)	0-12	PRINCE DANZIG 14 (CD,F,G) D Murray Smith 4-9-5	J Weaver	90
305	(8)	000-	ABLE CHOICE 73J (C,G) R Armstrong 5-9-5	R Cochrane	85
306	(7)	-346	GLOBAL DANCER 28 (C,G) W O'Gorman 4-9-3	Emma O'Gorman (3)	96
307	(1)	2-84	TONDRES 38 R Ingram 4-8-6	T Williams	85
308	(2)	0-60	ROMAN REEL 20 (D,F) G L Moore 4-8-3	J Quinn	85
309	(9)	520-	FATHER DAN 175 (F) Miss G Kelleway 5-7-11	D Wright (3)	88

9-4 Birequest, 5-2 Secret Aly, 4-1 Misty Silks, 6-1 Prince Danzig, 8-1 Able Choice, Tondres.

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Lingfield Park: 2.20 Crocodile Rock. Warwick: 2.30 Pontynyswen.

3.50 LINGFIELD PARK AWT SPRINT SERIES HANDICAP (Qualifier: 3-Y-O: £3,119: 6f) (8)

401	(4)	20-1	DAS ISLAND 7 (CD,G) J Jenkins 9-9 (7ex)	L Dettori	84
402	(6)	4162	BON SECRET 7 (C,G) T Naughton 9-7	S

Loophole in rugby law put under scrutiny

BY DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

RUGBY union, having been caught with its pants down last weekend, is making strenuous efforts to avoid the possibility of repetition before this season's five nations' championship ends. Leading administrators are insistent that referees should not be placed in so invidious a position as that of Didier Mené in Cardiff last Saturday because of a loophole in the law.

The Frenchman, an engineer by profession, made the best of a bad job at the Arms Park when he permitted Wales to replace John Davies, sent off for kicking, with another prop against England for safety reasons. At the same time Wales had to remain at 14 men because of the dismissal and, therefore, Hemi Taylor "limped" off to comply with the law which does not permit replacements save on genuine medical grounds.

FIVE NATIONS' CHAMPIONSHIP

The obvious confusion on the pitch, seen by millions of viewers on television, was not to the game's credit. "What took place was totally irregular but I don't blame the referee or Wales," Peter Brook, the former referee and one of England's International Rugby Football Board (IRFB) representatives, said.

"No clear guidelines have been given to referees about what to do. The issue will be debated by the board next month but we have two more weekends of the five nations' and, in my opinion, we have been dilatory. We were aware of the possibility of the situation and there needs to be a ruling so referees are not put in this predicament again."

To that end Brook has requested that the five nations' committee contact members of the IRFB laws committee for a decision before the next round of the championship on March 4. "It is total anathema to me that a player, in this case Taylor, [the Cardiff flanker] has to go off if he has done nothing wrong," Brook added.

It is not as though rugby had no notice of the loophole: as long ago as 1990 a Ranfurly Shield game in New Zealand, between Auckland and Canterbury, played before 30,000 people, was nearly reduced to farce when a hooker was dismissed within five minutes and Canterbury claimed to have no adequate replacement. The game proceeded but, to accord with domestic safety regulations, with no scrums taking place; free kicks were adopted to restart play instead.

Junior games in this country have been abandoned on the same grounds, but when the world and his wife are watching — on an international occasion or perhaps a significant domestic club match such as a Pilkington Cup quarter-final this weekend — the referee should be in no doubt of the appropriate action.

In times past, before the advent of replacements, in the event of an injury or dismissal another member of the pack would simply move up to prop. In a more safety-conscious era when the game enjoys a greatly-enhanced profile, that is not enough: indeed, given the size of today's England pack, it is not easy to imagine which of the back five forwards would serve as prop — Dean Richards, perhaps, would be favourite.

There are various concomitants: if, for example, two players are sent off together (as in the Wales-Ireland game of 1977) and one is a front-row forward, then one side would be at liberty to make a replacement, whereas safety reasons would not apply to the other player. Rugby would also be halfway towards the tactical replacement which remains a bone of contention among administrators, many of whom feel that the designated XV should play out the matchunless there is a genuine injury.

The IRFB is due to debate this situation at their annual meeting in mid-March, since Scotland have put forward a proposal. But Brook is optimistic that an interim decision can be made to cover March 4 matches by the board's laws committee: Roger Vanderfield (Australia), Marcel Martin (France) and Alan Hosie (Scotland) who are already dealing with Davies's appeal against his sixty-day suspension. They are being supplied with video evidence and written statements from the player and officials. They will fax their findings to the IRFB.

No referee wishes to have a serious injury on his hands, or face the possibility of civil proceedings as a result: such cases have arisen in the United States, Australia and one is pending in this country as a result of injury sustained in a collapsed scrum.

PETER LOMAS



Allcock, who was dogged by a heavy cold, on his way to a hard-fought victory in Preston yesterday

Burkett pushes Allcock all the way

BY GORDON ALLAN

TONY ALLCOCK, the winner in 1986 and 1987, came close to defeat in the second round of the Churchill Insurance world indoor singles bowls championship at the Guild Hall, Preston, yesterday. Two sets up, he was taken the distance by Neil Burkett, of Cape Town, before winning 7-2, 7-2, 5-7, 2-7, 7-5.

Allcock had a bad cold — "the doctor told me it's South African flu," he said — but he ran away with the opening two sets, and led 5-0 in the third before Burkett launched his recovery.

In the fourth set, Burkett took out Allcock's nearest bowl to score four shots and lead 5-2, and a double on the next end tied the match at two sets each.

Allcock led 5-0 in the decider, but Burkett prolonged the struggle. Afterwards, the South African said: "Tony got a good start in that final set with three singles and a two, and yet those were ends that I could just as easily have won."

Burkett, a medal-winner in the fours at the world outdoor championships and the Commonwealth Games, practised at Wynne Richards's club, Cambridge Park, in Twickenham, before travelling to Preston. He was full of praise for the championship and grateful for the chance of playing against the top indoor bowlers. Allcock said: "I'm just glad to have survived a hard match like that, even though I felt grim."

Mervyn King, the England champion, who beat Stephen Rees on Sunday night to claim his place in the quarter-finals for the second time, has been spoken of as a future world champion. His touch was calm and sure against Rees, and he said that he felt he was playing better than ever this year.

Cameron Curtis, of Australia, is in the same category. He is seen as having the requisite skill and temperament to go all the way, but he was off form as Ian Schuback's lead in their pairs match against Roy Battersby and David Corkill, of Belfast, and it was largely thanks to Schuback's brilliance that the holders got through to the semi-finals.

Schuback, the 1992 singles champion, has simplified his delivery action since last year, and it is working well. "I've cut down the number of things I do on the mat," he said. "I'm probably more relaxed as a result."

Results, page 40

Angry Warren threatens Benn with writ

NIGEL BENN could face a demand for compensation from Frank Warren if he fails to attend the press conferences to promote his World Boxing Council supermiddleweight title defence against Gerald McClellan, of the United States, which will be held on Saturday (Srikumar Sen writes).

Benn, who had contracted to attend two press conferences before the bout and one after it, was not present at a meeting called yesterday. He was still in Lanzarote where he has been training. He is expected to arrive in London today, but has to attend a High Court hearing tomorrow over an action brought by his former trainer, Brian Lynch.

Warren, who had expected a sell-out by now at the 13,000 capacity London Arena, claims that only half the tickets have been sold. "We expect Nigel Benn to attend the press conferences and I can assure you if he doesn't attend them I'll be issuing a writ against him for damages for hurting this promotion. I think this fight would have sold out if we had had some co-operation."

McClellan, too, was absent from the press conference yesterday because of "a problem". Warren would not elaborate, but said it had nothing to do with McClellan's physical condition.

The ITV viewing for Frank Bruno's first-round win over Rodolfo Marin at Shepton Mallet on Saturday was estimated at 12.2 million. Trevor East, head of ITV Sport, said: "It's only February but I expect it to be among the ten best for the year." East did, however, say: "To let Marin go home with his full purse is a disgrace. The Boxing Board should have stepped in."

TODAY'S FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated

B International
Scotland v N Ireland (Easter Road Stadium, Edinburgh)

FA Carling Premiership
Arsenal v Nottingham Forest (7.45)

Endsleigh Insurance League
First division
Barnsley v Millwall (7.45)
Charlton v Tranmere (7.45)
Grimsby v Stoke (7.45)
Oldham v West Bromwich (7.45)
Port Vale v Derby (7.45)
Portsmouth v Luton (7.45)
Reading v Southend (7.45)
Sheffield Utd v Burnley (7.45)
Watford v Sunderland (7.45)
Wolverhampton v Middlesbrough (7.45)

Second division
Blackpool v Chester
Bournemouth v Birmingham (7.45)
Brentford v Huddersfield (7.45)
Cardiff v Wycombe
Crewe v Bradford
Peterborough v Brighton (7.45)
Rotherham v Oxford Utd
Shrewsbury v Cambridge Utd
Stockport v Swansea
Wrexham v Plymouth
York v Leyton Orient

Third division
Darlington v Gillingham
Exeter v Wigan (7.45)
Hereford v Hartlepool
Lincoln v Colchester
Mansfield v Scunthorpe
Scarborough v Bury
Vauxhall Conference
Bob Lord Trophy
Semi-finals, first leg
Kettering v Dagenham and Red (7.45)
Macclesfield v Bromsgrove (7.45)
Bell's Scottish League
Premier division
Dundee Utd v Falkirk
Second division
East Fife v Greenock Morton
Stenhousemuir v Berwick
Third division
East Stirling v Montrose

UNIBOND LEAGUE: Premier division: Frickley v Gainsborough President's Cup: Second round: Marine v Lancaster; Spennymoor v Ashton Utd. Cup: Fourth round: Bamber Bridge v Knowsley. Fourth-round replay: Chorley v Warrington Town
DIADORA LEAGUE: Premier division: Kingstonian v Chesham (7.45). First division: Dorking v Barking. Second division: Cheshunt v Bracknell, Leatherhead v Hemel Hempstead, Thame v Croydon; Tilbury v Metropolitan Police; Windsor and Eton v Oxford City. Third division: Clapton v Flackwell Heath, Epsom and Ewell v Cove. Cup: Fourth round: Aldershot Town v Aylesbury; Berkhamsted v Boreham Wood; Hitchin v Hayes, Staines v Molesey. Fourth-round replay: Dulwich Hamlet v Carshalton
BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE: Premier division: Crawley v Sudbury; Hastings v Trowbridge. Postponed: Rushden and Diamonds v Gravesend and Northfl. Southern division: Basildon v Waterlooville; Fisher 93 v Tonbridge; Poole v Salisbury. Midland division: Moor Green v Bilston
KONICA LEAGUE OF WALES: Conwy v Porthmadog; Mold v Bangor City
CARLING NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Newcastle Town v Bradford Park Avenue; Prescot v Penrith.
ESSEX SENIOR LEAGUE: Premier division: East Ham v Ford, Eton Manor v Romford
JEWSON LEAGUE: Premier division: Fakenham v Lowestoft; Hadleigh Utd v Haverhill; Harwich and Parkeston v Felixstowe, Tiptree v Histon; Wisbech v March, Woodbridge v Diss; Wroxham v Soham.
JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First division: BAT v Downton; Swanage and Herston v Bournemouth. Cup: Quarter-final, second leg: Thatcham v Ryde
MINERVA SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE: Premier division: Biggleswade v Milton Keynes; Dunstable United v Harpenden Town.
UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: First division: East Grinstead v Burgess Hill; Ringmer v Slamco
NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE: Premier division: Ossett Albion v Pickering. President's Cup: Third-round replay: Armthorpe Welfare v Ashfield.
BASS IRISH CUP: Sixth-round replays: Portadown v Coleraine, Glenavon v Ormagh
WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: First division: Chatham v Slade Green; Corinthian v Kent Police; Tunbridge Wells v Beckenham. First division Cup: Third round: Dartford v Faversham Town, Whitstable Town v Ramsgate.
SOUTH-EAST COUNTIES LEAGUE: Cup: Semi-final: Wimbledon v Chelsea.
MANCHESTER PREMIER CUP: Semi-final: Trafford v Curzon Ashton
FA YOUTH CUP: Fourth round: Coventry City v Manchester City.
SCHOOLS MATCHES: London Cup: Buckinghamshire v Inner London (at Newport Pagnell, 11.0). Hertfordshire v Essex (at Bushey, 11.30); Suffolk v Norfolk (at Portman Road, 2.30).

RUGBY UNION

Club matches
Nuneaton v Tucuman Univ (Arg) (7.15)
Treorchy v Cross Keys (7.0)

OTHER SPORT

BILLIARDS: Strachan UK championship (Wigan)
BOXING: Commonwealth featherweight championship: Billy Hardy (GB, holder) v Percey Commey (Ghana). (Crowtree Leisure Centre, Sunderland)
BOWLS: Churchill Insurance world indoor championships (Preston)
RACING: Carlisle (2.10); Warwick (2.0), Lingfield Park (2.20).
TENNIS: LTA women's challenger tournament (Newcastle)

POOLS FORECAST

Saturday February 25 unless stated

Coupon No, fixture, forecast

FA PREMIERSHIP
1 Coventry v Leicester 1
2 Ipswich v South'plon 2
3 West Ham v Chelsea 1

Not on coupons: Blackburn v Norwich; Crystal Palace v Arsenal; Everton v Manchester United, Manchester City v Leeds; Newcastle v Aston Villa; Queens Park Rangers v Nottingham Forest (Sunday), Sheffield Wednesday v Liverpool; Tottenham v Wimbledon

FIRST DIVISION
4 Bristol C v Luton X
5 Notts Co v Reading 2
6 Oldham v Sheff Utd 1
7 Port Vale v Wolves 2
8 Portsm'th v Grimsby X
9 Southend v Sund'land 1
10 Tranmere v Burnley 1
11 Watford v Charlton 1
12 West Brom v Stoke 1

Not on coupons: Derby v Bolton (Sunday); Millwall v Middlesbrough (Sunday). Swindon v Barnsley

SECOND DIVISION
13 Birm'ham v Wrexham 1
14 Blackpool v Roth'ham 1
15 Bourn'm'th v Hull 2
16 Bradf'd v Camb'ge U 1
17 Brighton v Hudd'field 2
18 Crewe v Bristol R X
19 Oxford v Chester 1
20 Peterboro v Cardiff 1
21 Plymouth v Leyton O X
22 Shrews'ry v Brentford 2
23 Stockport v York X
24 Swansea v Wycombe 1

THIRD DIVISION
25 Bury v Colchester X
26 Darlington v Carlisle 2
27 Doncaster v Rochdale 1
28 Fulham v Barnet 1
29 Mansfield v Gillham 1
30 Nor'h'pton v Lincoln 2
31 Scarboro v Wigan 2
32 Scunth'pe v Hereford 1
33 Torquay v Chest'field X
34 Walsall v Preston 1

Not on coupons: Hartlepool v Exeter

BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION
35 Hednesford v Crawley 1
36 Leek v Hastings 1
37 Rushden v Gresley X
38 VS Rugby v Trowbr'ge 1

SCOTTISH PREMIER
39 Aberdeen v Moth'well 1
40 Dundee U v Partick 1
41 Falkirk v Hibernian 2
42 Hearts v Celtic X
43 Rangers v Kilmarnock 1

SCOTTISH FIRST
44 Ayr v Dunf'mline 2
45 Hamilton v Clydebank 1
46 Raith v Dundee X
47 S Johnst'n v Stranraer 1
48 St Mirren v Airdrie 2

SCOTTISH SECOND
49 Berwick v East Fife 1
50 Brechin v Dumbarton 2
51 Clyde v Meadowb'k 1
52 G Morton v Stenh'muir 1
53 Stirling v Q of South X

SCOTTISH THIRD
54 Arbroath v Montrose 2
55 Cale'nian v E Stirling X
56 Cowdenb'th v Alloa 1
57 Forfar v Albion 1
58 Queen's Pk v Ross 2

TREBLE CHANCE (home teams) Bristol City, Portsmouth, Crewe, Plymouth, Stockport, Bury, Torquay, Rushden, Hearts, Raith, Stirling, Caledonian.
BEST DRAWS: Bristol City, Portsmouth, Stockport, Torquay, Raith
AWAYS: *Southampton, Reading*, Wolves, Hull, Huddersfield
HOMES: Coventry, West Ham, Southend, Tranmere, Bradford, Fulham, Mansfield, Hednesford, Leek, St Johnstone, Greenock Morton, Forfar.
FIXED ODDS: Homes: West Ham, Southend, Tranmere, Fulham, Leek. Aways: Southampton, Wolves, Hull. Draws: Portsmouth, Stockport, Torquay.

☐ Vince Wright

Panthers' menace still missing

A MONTH ago, the premier division of the ice hockey British League appeared to be at the mercy of Nottingham Panthers, but an injury to their leading scorer, Rick Brebant, and less reliable goaltending than in the first half of the season have seen them drop five points in seven games and they now lead Sheffield Steelers by only two points (Norman de Mesquita writes).

The goaltending frailties were cruelly exposed by Humberside Hawks, who beat the Panthers 13-7, with the Scott Morrison, Anthony Johnson, Stephen Johnson forward line contributing seven goals and 13 assists.

The Steelers had no trouble beating the bottom team, Bracknell Bees, 7-2 with ten players finding their way on to the scoresheet.

Cardiff Devils maintained their hold on third place with a comfortable win over Basingstoke Beavers, who have now lost seven of their last eight games and slipped to seventh place.

Edinburgh Racers, in spite of conceding 16 goals, won both weekend games, away to Basingstoke and Milton Keynes Kings, and are secure in fourth place, eight points ahead of Durham Wasps.

The Wasps have found some consistency at last and gained an easy win over Whitley Warriors. The Warriors are having a dreadful time and have won only twice in their last 20 games.

Results, page 40

SNOW REPORTS

	Depth (cm) L	Depth (cm) U	Conditions Piste	Conditions Off/p	Runs to resort	Weather (5pm)	°C	Last snow
AUSTRIA								
Igls	5	75	fair	varied	worn	fair	10	18/2
(Slushy skiing after lunch with warm temperatures)								
Mayrhofen	10	90	good	varied	closed	fair	7	18/2
(Good snow and skiing above 1,600m, heavy below)								
Schladming	50	100	good	heavy	fair	fine	9	18/2
(Generally good despite rise in temperature)								
FRANCE								
Les Arcs	145	440	good	varied	good	fine	-1	18/2
(Generally excellent piste skiing)								
Chamonix	75	590	good	powder	good	sun	5	18/2
(Perfect ski conditions, not too busy)								
Flaine	150	310	good	heavy	heavy	fine	7	18/2
(Despite warm weather, excellent skiing everywhere)								
ITALY								
Cervinia	80	250	good	heavy	good	fine	5	18/2
(Great piste skiing under sunny skies)								
SWITZERLAND								
C Montana	120	335	good	crust	good	fine	6	17/2
(Good skiing under sunny skies, a little too warm)								
Verbier	50	160	good	powder	slush	fine	8	18/2
(Excellent skiing on all except lowest pistes)								
Wengen	30	140	good	heavy	good	fine	6	18/2
(Mostly very good skiing, specially above 1,300m)								

Source: Ski Club of Great Britain. L - lower slopes; U - upper; art - artificial.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 40

MACMORRIS
(a) The Irish Captain in *Henry V*. He appears in one scene only, with the Scots Captain Jamy, the Welsh Captain Fluellen, and the English Captain Gower. There has been vivid argument about the purpose of the scene (much of which is given over to Macmorris's and Fluellen's arguing about the respective bravery of the Irish and Welsh, and to the attempts of the others to keep the peace). Do they represent how all four nations of Britain achieve harmony under Henry? Are they simple comic stereotypes (with Macmorris the standard stage Irishman)?

PHILO
(c) A friend of Antony, he begins the play by deploring the way in which "this dotage of our general's/ O'erflows the measure" and how Antony, "the triple pillar of the world", is "transform'd/ Into a strumpet's fool". This is is finest hour and thereafter he disappears, freeing the actor to play somebody else.

BAVIAN
(b) The "driveler" or "baboon" in a morris-dance in *The Two Noble Kinsmen*. He takes part in the dance the countrymen are preparing for Duke Theseus. Bavian says only two words, "Yes, sir", the standard Shakespearian allocation for a non-actor in a musical or dancing scene.

PANTHINO
(a) Antonio's servant in *The Two Gentlemen of Verona*. He urges his master to send Proteus away to Milan "to practise tilts and tournaments,/ Hear sweet discourse, converse with noblemen,/ And be in the eye of every exercise/ Worthy his youth and nobleness of birth."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE
1 Qxb5! and if 1 ... Qxb5 2 Bh6+ Ke8 3 Rg8 is mate.

RADIO CHOICE

Life apes a movie myth

Tales from the Back of Beyond. *Radio 4 FM, 10.00am.*

Listening to Debbie Martyr's account of her expedition to the Indonesian island of Sumatra in search of a mysterious ape-like creature called the orang-pendek, I kept thinking of King Kong and Beauty and the beast. As I recall, Sumatra happened to be Kong's part of the world, too. But there the similarities end. Unlike King Kong, orang-pendek was not as tall as a five-storey building. He was reported to stand a mere metre and a half in his stockingless feet. Less than a man, witnesses said, but more than an animal. Ugly face, walked on two legs, and could bite a man's head off. Or a woman's, presumably. Does the plucky Debbie Martyr meet her mini-Kong in the jungles of Sumatra? All is revealed.

Ma'am, They're Playing Your Song. *Radio 2, 9.00pm.*

Bridget Apps has ingeniously devised this survey of national anthems of the world, and Bob Simfield waggishly narrates it. "God Save the Queen/King" is their starting point. The anthem's first recorded performance was in 1745, and Simfield cannot resist the temptation to add that the record is too old and scratchy to play tonight! Nor can he resist reminding us that "White Christmas" is the international anthem of Berlin. It is hard to know whether or not he is pulling our legs when he says that the Japanese national anthem has no more than four lines, while the Greeks must stand to attention for 157 verses.

Peter Davalle

RADIO 1

FM Stereo. 4.00am Bruno Brookes 6.30 Steve Wright 9.00 Kevin Greening 12.00 Lisa L'Anson, including at 12.30-12.45pm Newsbeat; and at 1.15 The Net 2.00 Nicky Campbell 4.00 Mark Goodier, including at 5.30-5.45 Newsbeat 7.00 Evening Session 9.00 The Bruce Dickinson Rock Show 10.00 Stuart Maconie Midnight Claire Sturgess

RADIO 2

FM Stereo. 6.00am Sarah Kennedy 6.15 Pause for Thought 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan 8.45 Pause for Thought 9.30 Ken Bruce 11.30 Jimmy Young 2.00pm Gloria Hunniford 3.30 Ed Stewart 5.05 Martin Kelner 7.00 Hayes Over Britain 8.30 My Mammy and Me 9.00 Ma'am, They're Playing Your Song: See Choice 10.00 My Music (r) 10.30 The Jamesons 12.05am Steve Madden with Night Ride 3.00 Alex Lester

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports 6.00 The Breakfast Programme 8.35 The Magazine, including at 10.35 Euronews; 11.00 Dirty News 12.00 Midday with Moir, including at 12.34pm Liz Barclay 2.05 Ruscoe on Five, incl at 3.15 Prime Minister's Question Time 4.00 John Inverdale Nationwide 7.00 News Extra, including at 7.20 sport 7.35 The Tuesday Match: football action with Marcus Buckland 10.05 News Talk, with Nigel Cassidy and guests 11.00 Night Extra, incl 11.45 The Financial World Tonight 12.05am After Hours 2.05 Up All Night

TALK RADIO

6.00am Maurice Dee and Carol McGiffin 10.00 Scott Chisholm 1.00pm Anne Raeburn 3.00 Tommy Boyd 7.00 Samantha Meah and Sean Bolger 10.00 Caesar the Geezer 1.00am Wild Al Kelly

WORLD SERVICE

All times in GMT. 4.30am BBC English 4.45 Fruhmagazin 5.00 Newshour 5.00 Morgenmagazin 6.30 Europe Today 7.00 News 7.15 Jean de Florette 7.30 New Ideas 7.50 The Life of Numbers 8.00 News 8.10 Words of Faith 8.15 International Recital 9.00 World News 9.05 Business Report 9.15 The Essential Qur'an 9.30 On Screen 9.45 Sport 10.00 News 10.01 Discovery 10.30 Ports of Call 11.00 Newsdesk 11.30 BBC English 11.45 Mittagsmagazin 12.00 News 12.10pm Words of Faith 12.15 Multitrack: Hit List 12.45 Sport 1.00 News 2.05 Outlook 2.30 Jean de Florette 2.45 Turning a Tune 3.00 News 3.15 A Jolly Good Show 4.00 News 4.15 BBC English 4.30 Heute Aktuell 5.00 News 5.05 Business Report 5.15 BBC English 6.00 Newsdesk 6.30 Heute Aktuell 7.00 News 7.05 Outlook 7.30 Andy Kershaw's World of Music 8.00 News 8.10 Words of Faith 8.15 The World Today 8.30 Europe Today 9.00 News 10.00 News 10.05 Business Report 10.15 Megamix 10.45 Sport 11.00 Newsdesk 11.30 Omnibus 12.00 News 12.15am International Recital 1.00 News 1.05 Outlook 1.30 What's News? 1.45 Country Style 2.00 News 2.30 Andy Kershaw's World of Music 3.00 News 3.15 Sport 3.30 Discovery 4.00 Newsdesk

CLASSIC FM

6.00am Nick Bailey 9.00 Henry Kelly 12.00 Susannah Simons 2.00pm Lunchtime Concerto: Viotti (Violin Concerto No 1 in C) 3.00 Jamie Crick 8.00 Classic Reports 7.00 The Opera Guide 8.00 Evening Concert 10.00 Michael Mappin 1.00am André Leon

VIRGIN

6.00am Russ 'n' Jono 9.00 Richard Skinner 12.00 Graham Dene 4.00pm Wendy Lloyd 7.00 Paul Coyte 11.00 Nick Abbot 2.00am Janey Lee Grace

RADIO 3

6.30am **Open University**: Understanding Societies: The World We Have Lost
6.55 Weather
7.00 **On Air**: Rossini (Flute Quartet No 1 in G); Monteverdi (Ave Maris Stella, Vespers 1610); Smetana (Wallenstein's Camp); Schubert (Rondo in D); Nielsen (An Evening at Giske); Dvorák (Drobnosti, Op 75a)
9.00 **Composers of the Week**: The Court of Dresden. Johann Pisendel (Concerto in D); Sylvius Weiss (Allemande, Suite in F minor); Jan Zelenka (Trio Sonata No 5 in F); Johann Heinichen (Pastorale per la notte di Natale); Vivaldi (Concerto in G minor)
10.00 **Musical Encounters**: Purcell (The Comical History of Don Quixote, excerpts); Mozart (String Quintet in G minor); Reger (Sonata in B flat, Op 107); Rubinstein (Don Quixote); Haydn (Symphony No 93 in D)
12.00 **Music Restored**, music from pre-Reformation England (r)
1.00pm **City of London Sinfonia** under Richard Hickox, with John Wallace, trumpet; John Harle, saxophone. Elgar (Introduction and Allegro for strings); Hopkins (Concerto for trumpet and saxophone, first performance); Tippett (Fantasia Concertante on a theme of Corelli)
2.10 **BBC Singers in Residence**: In the first of two programmes, Michael Emery talks to students of the Guildhall School of Music and Drama
3.00 **British Cities: Gloucester**: Vaughan Williams (Fantasia on a theme of Thomas Tallis); Gurney (Songs); Finzi (Severn Meadow); Howells (Magnificat, Gloucester Service)
5.00 **The Music Machine**: *The Sampling Sessions* (r)
5.15 **In Tune**: Vivaldi (Sinfonia in C); Berlioz (Roméo et Juliette, excerpts); Debussy (Violin Sonata)
7.30 **Pebble Mill**: The Lindsay Quartet performs Haydn (String Quartet in F, Op 77 No 2); Stravinsky (Three Pieces); 8.05 Beethoven and the Critics. What the critics said about the composer in his lifetime; 8.25 Beethoven (String Quartet in E flat)
9.10 **Second Draft from Sagaland**: New poems from Reykjavik
9.30 **The BBC Orchestras**: BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra under Alexander Gibson; Timothy Hugh, cello. Elgar (Cello Concerto in E minor) (r)
10.00 **Music, Men and Manners**: In the first of three programmes, John Moffat reads from the journal of the 18th-century historian Charles Burney who, in 1770, undertook a tour of Europe to gather material for his *General History of Music*
10.45 **Night Waves**: Richard Coles continues his provocative look at how the English attempt to define themselves
11.30-12.30am **The BBC Orchestras**: BBC Concert Orchestra under Jane Glover performs Reger (A Comedy Overture); Boris Blacher (Variations on a theme of Paganini); Dohnányi (Suite in F sharp minor, Op 19)

RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping Forecast 6.00 News Briefing; Weather 6.10 Farming Today 6.25 Prayer for the Day 6.30 Today incl 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30 News 7.45 Thought for the Day 8.40 Yesterday in Parliament 8.58 Weather
9.00 **News** 9.05 **Call Nick Ross: 0171-580 4444**
10.00-10.30 **News; Tales from the Back of Beyond (FM only)**: See Choice
10.00 **Daily Service (LW only)**
10.15 **Children's Radio 4: Marrying Off Mum (LW only)**, by Janice Marriott (r)
10.30 **Woman's Hour**: Kathleen Griffin traces the importance of women in the life and works of Oscar Wilde, from Lady Bracknell to the writer's wife, society hostess Constance
11.30 **Medicine Now**, with Geoff Watts
12.00 **News; You and Yours**, with Daire Brehan
12.25pm **Oliver Twist**. Part five of Charles Dickens's novel
12.55 Weather
1.00 **The World at One**
1.40 **The Archers** (r) 1.55 Shipping Forecast
2.00 **News; Thirty Minute Theatre: Much Like Yourself**. A comedy by Anné Hashmi about a young woman struggling to find her identity. With Charlotte Coleman and Frances Tomelty
2.30 **Conversation Piece**: The concert pianist Imogen Cooper talks to Sue MacGregor about her life and work (r)
3.00 **News; The Afternoon Shift**
4.00 **News**
4.05 **Kaleidoscope**: Lynne Walker talks to the young violinist Joshua Bell, currently playing at the Wigmore Hall, and reviews Carol Shields's new novel, *Small Ceremonies*
4.45 **Short Story: The Hampstead Vegetable Heist**. Larry Lamb reads Mat Coward's story
5.00 **PM** 5.50 Shipping Forecast 5.55 Weather
6.00 **Six O'Clock News**
6.15 **The Board Game**: Nigel Cassidy chairs the business quiz, with panellists Peter Day, Sir Alastair Morton, Alastair Ross Goobey and Nigel Whittaker
7.00 **News** 7.05 **The Archers**
7.20 **File on 4**
8.00 **Science Now** (r)
8.30 **Mum, I've Got Something To Tell You**: Families recall the crucial moment when their sons announced they were gay (r)
9.00 **In Touch**: Magazine for people with a visual handicap, presented by Peter White
9.30 **Kaleidoscope** (r) 9.59 Weather
10.00 **The World Tonight**
10.45 **Book at Bedtime: Happy Sad Land**, by Mark McCrum. Read by Richard E. Grant (2/7)
11.00 **Mediumwave** (r)
11.30-12.00 **Four Corners (FM only)**: Andy Kershaw explores courtship worldwide, including match-making in Japan (r)
11.30 **Today in Parliament (LW only)**
12.00-12.43am **News** incl 12.27 Weather 12.33 Shipping Forecast 12.43 As World Service (LW)

RADIO 1: FM 97.6-99.8. RADIO 2: FM-88-90.2. RADIO 3: FM-90.2-92.4. RADIO 4: 198kHz/1515m; FM-92.4-94.6; LW 198. RADIO 5: 693kHz/433m; 909kHz/330m. LONDON RADIO: 1152kHz/261m; FM 97.3. CAPITAL: 1548kHz/194m; FM-95.8. GLR: FM 94.9; WORLD SERVICE: MW 648kHz/463m. CLASSIC FM: FM-100-102. VIRGIN: MW-1215, 1197, 1242 kHz. TALK RADIO: MW 1089, 1053kHz. Listings compiled by Peter Dear and Gillian Maxey

Love, death, jealousy and injustice

REVIEW



Matthew Bond

After a week in which the BBC described its output as too middle class, too white and too dominated by the south of England, you might reasonably expect the author of a well-received television drama set in working-class, multi-cultural Bradford to be in pretty chipper form. But Martin Sadofski, the writer of **Blood and Peaches**, which concluded on BBC2 last night, seems anything but.

The BBC, he said on Radio 4's *World at One* last week, should not interfere in the creative process — that should be left strictly to writers and directors. The corporation, he opined, should confine itself to commissioning and transmitting these works. The comments struck me as a tad churlish, especially as the BBC had rescued *Blood and Peaches* from the dramatically blinkered ITV Network Centre (what, no policemen?) and, more surprisingly, Channel 4.

But then I remembered the provocative words of Andrew Davies in his Huw Wheldon Memorial lecture "Prima-donnas and job lots". Drama, Davies said, "should be all about making masterpieces". Suddenly all became clear. Why should a young writer, such as Mr Sadofski, be grateful for the BBC spending several hundred thousand pounds of licence payers' money on bringing his work to the screen? Gratitude? Ridiculous bourgeois concept.

Quite what *Blood and Peaches* might have looked like had the BBC not stuck its creative oar in, who can tell. It was still derivative, it was still over-scripted and it was still very, very good. Sadofski had even enjoyed a little dark good fortune in the shape of the football riot in Dublin, which brought new resonance to the sub-plot of the pig-tailed fascist organiser (Alex Norton) and his gang of racist thugs.

But having spent two hours establishing their deeply sinister credentials, the long-awaited confrontation at the Asian festival saw them mysteriously transformed into a rabble of almost comic incompetence. A drama with so many story lines — love, death, jealousy and a day trip to Blackpool — was always going to have trouble pulling the loose ends together, and so it proved.

But somehow it did not seem to matter, despite the black cloud that hung over Bradford for much of this second part. Rosemary Leach, as the Subbuteo-playing Nan with a fondness for quoting Prefab Sprout, stole the show. But then she had the best lines, such as her advice to Ellie (Nicola Hird, who came close to stealing it back): "Stay away from tongues, Ellie — that's where the trouble starts."

Where the trouble can occasionally and tragically end was the subject of **Beyond Reason** (ITV). With actors of the calibre of Simon Shepherd, Jennifer Ehle and Kate Hardie the dramatisation of the murder of Penny McAllister was always likely to be well made. The real question is, should it have been made at all?

I would say no, if only because of the objections of Penny McAllister's parents. It is only four years since their daughter was murdered in Northern Ireland. This sadly-familiar story of obsessive love is probably too powerful to avoid dramatisation for ever, but surely their wishes could have been respected for longer.

The writer, Lucy Gannon, and the producers, Kensington Films and Carlton UK, justified their actions by inviting us to draw our own conclusions. Quite what the point was of drawing a conclusion from a production that carried more riders and caveats than an extended warranty agreement defeated me. This was not a documentary reconstruction, dialogue had been created and some "minor characters and events" combined. Sounded to me like a fair amount of judging had gone on already.

The producers place great store on the fact that the script was based on trial transcripts, but that approach is seriously flawed. One person did not give evidence in the trial — Penny McAllister. Just as she was the victim in real-life, so she was in this dramatisation, appearing as an incidental, two-dimensional character without a story of her own.

If that left Ehle with little else to do than look sporadically beautiful (but never quite as beautiful as the real Penny McAllister appeared in newspaper photographs), it left plenty of time for Shepherd, wisely camouflaged behind a moustache, and Hardie to get to grips with the parts of Duncan McAllister and Susan Christie. This unrewarding task they both performed with considerable skill and, in Hardie's case, outpourings of emotional energy. I just rather wish they hadn't.

By contrast, I'm delighted to see **Goodnight Sweetheart** (BBC1) return for a second series. Beautifully acted by Nicholas Lyndhurst, Michelle Holmes and Victor McGuire, the scripts by Laurence Marks and Maurice Gran are probably the funniest in the currently fashionable genre of gentle, "bittersweet" comedy.

Never afraid to tackle the surreal, episode one saw the time-travelling Gary (Lyndhurst) returning to wartime London to invest an authentic wad of period fivers in the hope of making enough money to make the big move to Maple Avenue in 1995. Unfortunately the bank he chose was run by a Mr Mainwaring and Mr Wilson (splendid impersonations from Alec Linstead and Terrence Hardiman). As an ungainly youth appeared with an unsteady tray of very camp coffee, Gary had a wild guess.

"I don't suppose his name is Pike?"

"Don't be silly," snapped back Mainwaring, "he's called Major."

Stupid boy.

BBC1

6.00 Business Breakfast (66353)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (62489624)
9.05 Swat Kats (r) (s) (4798402) **9.30 White Fang** (r) (8805063) **9.55 Christopher Crocodile** (r) (2931402)
10.00 News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (7900624) **10.05 EastEnders — The Early Days.** The second episode of the decade-old soap (r). (Ceefax) (s) (2938315)
10.35 Good Morning with Anne and Nick. Weekday magazine series presented by Anne Diamond and Nick Owen (s) (4182150)
12.00 News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (1885150) **12.05 Pebble Mill** with Gloria Hunniford (s) (2011792) **12.55 Regional News** and weather (75193082)
1.00 One O'Clock News (Ceefax) and weather (45711)
1.30 Neighbours. (Ceefax) (s) (82911131) **1.50 Watchdog.** A repeat of yesterday's edition of the consumer magazine. (Ceefax) (s) (65725266)
2.20 FILM: Perry Mason — The Case of the Lady in the Lake (1985) starring Raymond Burr and Barbara Hale. The legal eagle defends a man accused of murdering his heiress wife. Directed by Ron Satlof. (Ceefax) (4392501)
3.50 Jackanory. Nigel Terry with part two of Ursula Le Guin's story *A Wizard Of Earthsea* (s) (3684976) **4.00 Willy Fogg.** (Ceefax) (2202537) **4.25 Grimmy** (4235082) **4.35 Incredible Games.** (Ceefax) (s) (5411889)
5.00 Newsround (7158044) **5.10 Grange Hill.** (Ceefax) (s) (9591624)
5.35 Neighbours (r). (Ceefax) (s) (894537)
6.00 Six O'Clock News (Ceefax) and weather (402)
6.30 Regional News Magazines (222)
7.00 Holiday. Reports from a Spanish tennis school, Goa, Fuerteventura and a National Trust property in Cornwall. (Ceefax) (s) (5247)
7.30 EastEnders. (Ceefax) (s) (266)
8.00 Ten Years In Albert Square. A review of a decade of the East End of London soap. (Ceefax) (s) (4995)
8.30 A Question Of Sport. David Coleman, Bill Beaumont and Ian Botham are joined by John Parrott, Mark Roe, Peter Beardsley and Peter Marshall. (Ceefax) (s) (3402)
9.00 Nine O'Clock News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (4112)
9.30 Clive James — Postcard From Bombay. (Ceefax) (s) (390421). **Wales:** Week In Week Out 10.00 Clive James 10.55 Omnibus 11.45-1.15am Film: Halloween
10.25 Omnibus: The Greatest Living Painter? (Ceefax) (250599)

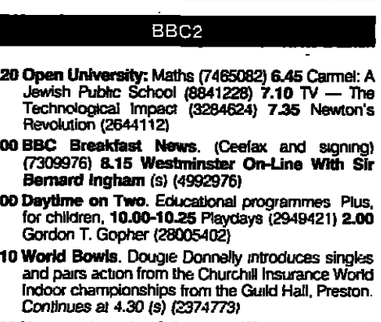


Jamie Lee Curtis, Donald Pleasence (11.15pm)

11.15 FILM: Halloween (1978) starring Donald Pleasence and Jamie Lee Curtis. Horror movie about a mysterious killer who escapes from prison after 15 years and returns to the scene of his original crime — stabbing his older sister to death. Directed by John Carpenter. (Ceefax) (482150)
12.40am Weather (3613209)

BBC2

6.20 Open University: Maths (7465082) **6.45** Carmel: A Jewish Public School (8841228) **7.10** TV — The Technological Impact (3284624) **7.35** Newton's Revolution (2644112)
8.00 BBC Breakfast News. (Ceefax and signing) (7309976) **8.15 Westminster On-Line With Sir Bernard Ingham** (s) (4992976)
9.00 Daytime on Two. Educational programmes Plus, for children, **10.00-10.25** Playdays (2949421) **2.00** Gordon T. Gopher (28005402)
2.10 World Bowls. Dougie Donnelly introduces singles and pairs action from the Churchill Insurance World Indoor championships from the Guild Hall, Preston. *Continues at 4.30 (s) (2374773)*
3.00 News and weather followed by **Westminster with Nick Ross.** (Ceefax) (6956599) **3.50 News** (Ceefax), regional news and weather (3682518)
4.00 Today's the Day. Recent history quiz (s) (995)
4.30 World Bowls. Further coverage (s) (45860)
6.00 Fresh Prince of Bel Air. American teen comedy (s) (332353)
6.25 Heartbreak High. Australian drama series. (Ceefax) (s) (778082)
7.10 The Tick. Animated adventures (s) (992179)
7.30 Design Classics. Then story of the Fred Perry shirt (r). (Ceefax) (808)
8.00 Public Eye: Sins of the Fathers. Fiona Bruce talks to people campaigning to change the law whereby victims of paternal abuse cannot take their fathers to court after the age of 24. (Ceefax) (2537)
8.30 Food and Drink. Includes a report on the cuisine of Mauritius. (Ceefax) (s) (1044)
9.00 Murder Most Horrid II: Lady Luck. A black comedy starring Dawn French and Dean Gallagher (r). (Ceefax) (s) (5082)
9.30 Cardiac Arrest: Welcome to the House of Pain. Medical comedy drama about a newly-qualified doctor working in an NHS hospital (r). (Ceefax) (s) (77773)



Joan tries for another child (10.00pm)

10.00 The Labours of Eve: Joan's Story. (Ceefax) (s) (49402)
10.30 Newsnight. (Ceefax) (963711)
11.15 The Late Show (s) (825247)
11.55 Weather (272421)
12.00 Modern Art. Manet's "Olympia" (1696396)
12.25am Computer Aided Design (1699483)
12.55 The Record. The day in Parliament (s) (1693377). Ends at **1.25**
2.00-4.00 Night School. Special Needs — Access to Learning (12321)

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CHOICE

Labours of Eve: Joan's Story
BBC2, 10.00pm

A road accident during a Greek holiday in 1988 left Joan badly injured and both her young children dead. She and her husband decided that the only way to cover the loss was to have a second family. But the accident had left her infertile and, by now well into her forties, she was too old to adopt. As a final resort she decided to try for a baby using the egg of another woman, though she knew that the child would not be genetically hers. Thanks partly to press publicity, which produced more than 200 potential egg donors, the story ended happily. But there were setbacks, and much anguish, along the way. Joan bravely relives them for the camera in the first of a series on how technology is transforming childbirth.

Network First: The Yardies
ITV, 10.40pm

In Britain yardies are black gangs who present a dangerous image of glamour and guns. Peddling hard drugs, they have been called the new Mafia. This film explores their roots, in the back streets of Jamaica. It does not try to moralise or excuse, merely to explain. Peter lives in one of the poor ghetto communities of Kingston. His mother was a prostitute, his father a drug dealer who made a lot of money and was killed for it. Peter earns his living shooting videos of weddings, dances and, increasingly, funerals. The dead are often his friends, victims of street violence. In the ghetto, he explains, people get fed up and fight. They see the gun as a way out. As he covers yet another funeral, Peter fears that he could be next.



Clive James in India's city of dreams (BBC1, 9.30pm)

Clive James — Postcard From Bombay
BBC1, 9.30pm

The portly Aussie travels to India and finds it hot. This is running joke number one, watching the sweat seeping through his entire wardrobe of shirts. Running joke number two is sparked by a roadside astrologer who tells James, on account of his bulk, to expect a heart attack in 1996. The big set-piece gag is getting a bit part as a swordsman in a lavish Hindi film. The joke lasts long enough to prove that James is no Douglas Fairbanks. But most of Bombay's 12 million inhabitants live in poverty, which is no laughing matter. Realising he cannot get away with cracks about the desperate, James tries to smooth the subject away with pious hopes and smart phrases. But in the end the beggars are just more usable material.

Omnibus: The Greatest Living Painter?
BBC1, 10.25pm (Scotland February 26)

The estimation of Willem de Kooning as the greatest artist in the world came from de Kooning himself, though he was said to be drunk at the time. In fairness, he is not the only one who thinks so. The British public can decide for itself as a de Kooning exhibition opens at the London Tate Gallery. Anand Tucker's film, meanwhile, offers a useful primer. De Kooning was born in Rotterdam but made his reputation in the United States, as a leading exponent of abstract expressionism. Since 1988 he has suffered from Alzheimer's, the degenerative brain disease which affects learning and memory. He has continued to paint but the artistic merit of this recent work has been fiercely debated.

Peter Waymark

CARLTON

6.00am GMTV (1434605)
9.25 Chain Letters with Ted Robbins (s) (4794686) **9.55 London Today** (Teletext) and weather (28757675)
10.00 The Time... the Place (s) (4050537)
10.35 This Morning presented by Stephen Rhodes and Alison Keenan (90194247) **12.20pm London Today** (Teletext) and weather (1881334)
12.30 News (Teletext) and weather (4700841)
12.55 Emmerdale (r). (Teletext) (4718860) **1.25 Home and Away** (Teletext) (61374686)
1.55 Vanessa. Vanessa Feltz talks to people who lost weight to please their partner. (Teletext) (s) (78870155) **2.25 A Country Practice** (s) (61785605)
2.50 Blue Heelers. A baby is found abandoned at the local railway station (9502266) **3.20 ITN News** headlines (7254150) **3.25 London Today** (Teletext) and weather (7253421)
3.30 The Magic House (s) (9359334) **3.40 Tots TV** (s) (3673860) **3.50Twinkle the Dream Being** (r) (s) (3679044) **4.00 Budgie the Little Helicopter** (4985841) **4.15 The Dreamstone** (Teletext) (s) (2830060) **4.40 Chris Cross** (Teletext) (s) (8386650)
5.10 After 5 (Teletext) (6915452)
5.40 News (Teletext) and weather (128131)
5.55 Your Shout. Viewers' opinions(979911)
6.00 Home and Away (r). (Teletext) (570)
6.30 London Tonight (Teletext) (150)
7.00 Emmerdale. A mystery celebrity opens the new-look Woolpack. (Teletext) (9565)
7.30 The Big Story. A look at the massive daily workload for a typical GP working in East London (s) (334)
8.00 You've Been Framed (r) (9063)
8.30 The Brit Awards 1995. Chris Evans hosts the music television event from Alexandra Palace and announces the winners. Featuring live performances by Madonna, Blur, East 17, Eternal and Elton John (s) (25773)
10.00 News at Ten (Teletext) and weather (43228)
10.30 London Tonight (Teletext) and weather (693570)



Life in a Jamaican ghetto (10.40pm)

10.40 Network First: The Yardies. (Teletext) (s) (680841)
11.40 Carlton Sport introduced by Bob Wilson (569889)
12.45am FILM: Amos (1985) starring Kirk Douglas, Elizabeth Montgomery and Dorothy McGuire. A resident in a nursing home suspects the head nurse of murdering the patients. After the authorities dismiss his claims as senile ramblings, he sets out to prove he is right. Directed by Michael Tuchner (604396)
2.30 The Little Picture Show (9124464)
3.25 America's Top Ten (s) (89575938)
3.50 Cinema, Cinema, Cinema (r) (68580241)
4.15 On the Live Side featuring Arnett Cobb (s)
4.30 Videofashion (73648)
5.00 Vanessa (r). (Teletext) (s) (39716)
5.30 ITN Morning News (98822). Ends at **6.00**

CHANNEL 4

6.35 Sandokan (r) (8845044)
7.00 The Big Breakfast (35334)
9.00 Wish Kid (r) (53605)
9.30 Schools: Eureka! (5194570) **9.45** Stop, Look, Listen (5122353) **10.00** Fourways Farm (7984683) **10.10** Maths Everywhere (1885709) **10.25** How We Used to Live (6635086) **10.45** Coming Together (1671599) **11.00** Science in Focus (9078518) **11.22** Stage One (2776599) **11.38** Schools at Work (9972599) **11.45** First Edition (3071995)
12.00 House To House. Political magazine (33841)
12.30 Sesame Street The guest is Randy Travis (19402)
1.30 Widget (r) (s) (85525088)
1.55 Pete Smith Specialties Double Bill (b/w). *Those Good Old Days*, made in 1949, compares pre-war living with life at the turn of the century; *Memory Tricks*, a short made in 1941, is an instruction on improving the memory (82914228)
2.20 FILM: The Immortal Sergeant (1943) starring Henry Fonda, Thomas Mitchell and Maureen O'Hara. Second World War drama about an introvert Canadian corporal leading a patrol of British soldiers against the Germans in the Libyan desert. Directed by John Stahl. (Teletext) (288860)
4.00 The Way We Were Historian Dr Carl Chinn looks at the lives of the people who were sent to the Birmingham Workhouse (s) (173)
4.30 Countdown. (Teletext) (s) (247)
5.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show. The guests are women who are terminally ill (Teletext) (s) (7560150)
5.50 Terrytoons. Classic cartoons (329632)
6.00 Babylon 5. American science-fiction adventures. (Teletext) (402402)
6.55 Rhyme and Reason (648711)
7.00 Channel 4 News (Teletext) and weather (970773)
7.50 The Slot (947889)
8.00 Classic Motorcycles The first of a six-part series on the history, design and technology of the world's great motorbikes (r). (Teletext) (s) (7605)
8.30 Brookside. (Teletext) (s) (6112)



Ned Beatty as Josef Locke (9.00pm)

9.00 Film On Four: Hear My Song (1991) starring Ned Beatty, Adrian Dunbar and Shirley Anne Field. A romantic comedy about the Irish singing star of the 1950s, Josef Locke, who was forced to leave Britain at the height of his popularity because of income tax irregularities. A concert promoter who thinks he has booked him travels to Ireland to try to persuade Locke to return for one last performance. Directed by Peter Chelsom. (Teletext) (s) (3599)
11.00 Robin Williams Live at the Met The comedian and actor with an hour of stand-up humour (15570)
12.00 Football Italia — Mezzanotte. Highlights of a top *Serie A* match (85323)
1.00am Blood, Sweat and Glory. The story of American football and basketball (6936217)
1.35 FILM: The Man In the Mirror (1936, b/w) starring Edward Everett Horton. A comic farce about a shy businessman whose mirror image comes to life and reorganises his affairs. Maurice Elvey directs (1907410). Ends **3.05**

VARIATIONS

ANGLIA

As London except: 9.55am-10.00 Anglia News and Weather (2926570) **12.20pm-12.30** Anglia News (1881334) **1.55** A Country Practice (82916686) **2.50-3.20** Blockbusters (9502266) **3.25-3.30** Anglia News and Weather (7253421) **5.10-5.40** Shortland Street (6915452) **5.25-7.00** Anglia Weather followed by Anglia News (541727) **7.30-8.00** Food Guide (334) **10.30-10.40** Anglia News (693570) **11.40** Prisoner Cell Block H (282518) **12.35am-2.30** High Noon, Part II The Return of Will Kane (251613) **3.30** The Best (78071) **4.30-5.00** Travel Trails (73649)

CENTRAL

As London except: 9.55-10.00 Central News (2926570) **12.20pm-12.30** Central News and Weather (1881334) **1.55** A Country Practice (82916686) **2.50-3.20** Blockbusters (9502266) **3.25-3.30** Central News (7253421) **5.10-5.40** Shortland Street (6915452) **5.25-7.00** Central News and Weather (541727) **7.30-8.00** Heart of the Country (334) **10.30-10.40** Central News and Weather (693570) **11.40-12.45pm** Central Sports Special (Wolves v Middlesbrough) (5696939) **4.15am** Jobfinder (9194025) **5.30-5.30** Asian Eye (8684261)

GRANADA

As London except: 9.55-10.00 Granada News (2926570) **12.20pm-12.30** Granada News (1881334) **12.55** Shortland Street (4718860) **1.25** Home and Away (30387044) **1.50** Vanessa (77420614) **2.20** Gardeners' Diary (61777686) **2.50-3.20** Emmerdale (9502266) **3.25** Granada News (7253421) **3.30-3.40** The Magic House (9359334) **5.10-5.40** A Country Practice (6915452) **6.25** Granada Tonight (541727) **7.00** Emmerdale (9565) **7.30-8.00** The Main Ingredient (334) **10.30-10.40** Granada News (693570) **11.40** Crime Story (5696889) **12.45am** Film. Amos (Kirk Douglas, Elizabeth Montgomery, Dorothy McGuire) (604396) **2.30** The Little Picture Show (9124464) **3.25** America's Top Ten (89575938) **3.50** Cinema, Cinema, Cinema (68580241) **4.15** Jobfinder (7747629) **5.00-5.30** Vanessa (39716)

HTV WEST

As London except: 9.55-10.00 HTV West Headlines (2926570) **2.25** The Entertainers (61785605) **2.50-3.20** Shortland Street (9502266) **3.25-3.30** HTV West Headlines (7253421) **5.10-5.40** A Country Practice (6915452) **6.30-7.00** HTV News (150) **7.30-8.00** West Eye View (334) **10.30-10.40** HTV West Headlines and Weather (693570) **11.40-12.45pm** Prisoner Cell Block H (569889) **4.15am-5.00** Jobfinder (7747629)

HTV WALES

As HTV WEST except: 6.30-7.00 Wales Tonight (150) **7.30-8.00** Primetime (334) **10.30-10.40** HTV Wales News and Weather (693570)

MERIDIAN

As London except: 1.55 A Country Practice (82916686) **2.50-3.20** Shortland Street (9502266) **5.10-5.40** Home and Away (6915452) **6.00** Meridian Tonight (570) **6.30-7.00** Surprise Chels (150) **7.30-8.00** Serve You Right (334) **10.30-10.40** Meridian News and Weather (693570) **11.40** Midweek Sport (282518) **12.35am-2.30** High Noon, Part II The Return of Will Kane (2516133) **3.30** The Best (78071) **4.30** Travel Trails (73648) **5.00-5.30** Freescreen (39716)

WESTCOUNTRY

As London except: 2.25 The Young Doctors (61776957) **3.25-3.30** Westcountry News, Weather (7253421) **5.10-5.40** Home and Away (6915452) **6.00-7.00** Westcountry Live (92082) **7.30-8.00** Wild West Country (334) **11.40-12.45pm** Prisoner Cell Block H (569889) **4.15am-5.00** Jobfinder (7747629)

YORKSHIRE

As London except: 12.20pm-12.30 Calendar News and Weather (1881334) **1.55** A Country Practice (82916686) **2.50-3.20** Shortland Street (9502266) **3.25-3.30** Calendar News (7253421) **5.10-5.40** Home and Away (6915452) **5.55** Calendar (324150) **6.30-7.00** Crosswits (150) **7.30-8.00** Good Advice (334) **10.30-10.40** Calendar News and Weather (693570) **11.40** Film B L Stryker - High Rise (Burt Reynolds, Ossie Davis, Rita Moreno) (644570) **1.30am** The Little Picture Show (60632) **2.30** Sport AM (Volvo golf from South Africa) (79754) **3.30** The Best (5577984) **4.25-5.30** Jobfinder (9844919)

S4C

Starts: 7.00 The Big Breakfast (35334) **9.00** Wish Kid (53605) **9.30** Yogalton (798421) **12.00pm** House To House (33841) **12.30** Slot Medrnin (82605) **1.00** Little Miss (38421) **1.30** Hanging With Mr Cooper (81876) **2.00** The Late Late Show (94599) **3.00** The Number 10 Show (6976) **3.30** The Oprah Winfrey Show (9275402) **4.20** Terrytoons (4229421) **4.30** Saved By The Bell - The New Class (247) **5.00** 5 Pump (1421) **5.30** Countdown (599) **6.00** Newyddion (792711) **6.15** Hano (774266) **7.00** Pobol Y Cwm (8957) **7.30** Y Ferch Drws Nesa' (976) **8.00** Pyramid Serch (7605) **8.30** Newyddion (6112) **9.00** Cutting Edge: Jumpers (3976) **10.00** Brookside (34570) **10.30** Dim Talod (71024) **11.20** The Best Of The Tube (15082) **12.00am** Reality On The Rocks (51938)

SATELLITE

SKY ONE

6.00am DJ Kat (85150) **8.00** Power Rangers (29331311) **8.45** Oprah Winfrey (8044957) **9.30** Card Sharks (22247) **10.00** Concentration (46976) **10.30** Candid Camera (93247) **11.00** Sally Jessy Raphael (61773) **12.00** The Urban Peasant (845599) **12.30pm** E Street (26063) **1.00** St Elsewhere (21516) **2.00** The Donwater Dynasty (47605) **3.00** Oprah Winfrey (1757808) **3.50** DJ Kat (43590863) **4.30** Power Rangers (1315) **5.00** Star Trek: The Next Generation (3044) **6.00** Gamesworld (2808) **6.30** Family Ties (6860) **7.00** E Street (4773) **7.30** M*A*S*H (2044) **8.00** The X-Files: new series (51773) **9.00** Models Inc pilot episode of a new series starring Linda Gray as the owner of a Hollywood modelling agency (71537) **10.00** Star Trek: The Next Generation (74624) **11.00** Late Show with David Letterman (187599) **11.45** Littlejohn (606247) **12.30am** Chances (56532) **1.30** Night Court (39377) **2.00-6.00** Hitmix Long Play (5257483)

SKY NEWS

News on the hour
6.00am Sunrise (9761841) **9.30** Fashion TV (97353) **10.30** ABC Nightline (91889) **1.30pm** CBS News (503341 **2.30** Parliament Live (878601 **6.05** Richard Littlejohn (936044) **9.00** O.J Simpson Trial Live (5305353) **12.30am** CBS News (2595551) **1.10** Entertainment This Week (8920629) **2.30** Parliament Replay (16735) **4.30** Target (44006) **5.30-6.00** ABC Nightline (43342)

SKY MOVIES

6.00am Showcase (3195268) **10.00 The Return of Ironside** (1993) (37179) **12.00 Cross My Heart** (1990) (51906) **2.00pm Bury Me in Niagara** (1992) (65976) **4.00 Spotswood** (1991) (41815082) **5.55 The Return of Ironside** (1993) As 10am (16906150) **7.30 Close-Up: Sharon Stone on Silver** (711.) **8.00 Malcolm X** (1992) (4891402) **11.20 To the Death** (1992) (6871501) **1.05am Splitting Heirs** (1992) (9883919) **2.30 Deadly Addiction** (1988) (7694624) **4.05-5.35 The Favour, the Watch and the Very Big Fish** (1991) (993735)

SKY MOVIES GOLD

6.00pm The Man from the Diner's Club (1963) (41334) **8.00 Boom!** (1968) 10.00-**12.00 Scandal** (1989) (63583)

THE MOVIE CHANNEL

6.00am A Tree Grows in Brooklyn (1945) (56280044) **8.10 King Solomon's Mines** (1986) Animation (5738624) **9.05 Hiawatha** Cartoon (5363773) **10.00 Tarzan Escapes** (1936) (85727) **11.30 Tarzan finds a Son** (1939) (6873711) **12.55pm The Big Broadcast of 1937** (1936) (13509995) **2.35 The Ex-Mrs Bradford** (1936) (7319218) **4.10 King Solomon's Mines** (1986) As 8.10am (30323334) **5.05 Hiawatha** As 9.05am (6383112) **6.00 The Haunted School** (1986) (76082) **8.00 Fire in the Sky** (1993) (55699) **10.00 Double Impact** (1991) (399247) **11.50 Doctor Mordrid** (1992) (730315) **1.10am Cool World** (1992) (760532) **2.55 Lambada** (1989) (673613) **4.30-6.00 The Ex-Mrs Bradford** As 2.35pm (30803)

SKY SPORTS

7.00am Soccer News (90635347) **7.15** WWF Mania (287222) **8.15** Soccer News (23401121) **8.30** Speed and Beauty (31082) **9.00** Snowboard Tour (22334) **9.30** Aerobics (57518) **10.00** US PGA Golf Bob Hope Classic (60082) **12.00** Aerobics (28470) **12.30pm** Scottish Cup Football (37860) **2.30** High Five (7155) **3.00** NBA Action (8518) **3.30** Stunt Team Championship (5150) **4.00** ABC Tenpin Bowling (88353) **5.00** WWF Superstars (2570) **6.00** Soccer News (8305701) **6.15** Fish Tales (868353) **6.30** Grass Roots Rugby (3686) **7.00** Boots 'n' All (88841) **8.00** Jump Fever '95, Live (45155) **10.00** Soccer News (286976) **10.15** Tartan Extra (6992281) **11.15** Grass Roots Rugby (755063) **11.45** Fish Tales (116266) **12.00-2.00am** Jump Fever '95 (39754)

EUROSPORT

7.30am Eurogolf Magazine (85995) **8.30** Freestyle Skiing (13402) **9.30** Tennis (87063) **11.00** Football (82357) **12.30pm** Speedworld (39228) **2.30** Football (27402) **4.00** Live Tennis (7094841) **7.30** Eurosport News (6266) **8.00** Eurosh (99957) **9.00** Live Boxing (92044) **11.00** Snooker (22808) **12.00-12.30am** Eurosport News (88483)

SKY SOAP

8.00am Loving (6007889) **8.30** Peyton Place (6099860) **9.00** As the World Turns (79662568) **10.00** Guiding Light (6712792) **11.00-12.00** Another World (6709228)

SKY TRAVEL

12.00 Getaway (6000976) **12.30pm** Zoo Lie (1048860) **1.00** Trailside (6703044) **1.30** Cook Italian (10471131) **2.00** California's Gold (8566805) **2.30** Discover Your World (7191841) **3.00** American Vacation (1956334) **4.00** Travel Guide (7115421) **4.30** Zoo Lie (7111605) **5.00 Roads to Freedom** (8351957) **5.30** Cook Italian (7102957) **6.00** Getaway (7152570) **6.30** Ticket to Paradise (7116150) **7.00** Ghost Towns (8446421) **8.00** Around the World (8340941) **8.30** Travel Guide (8362976) **9.00** Getaway (1964353) **9.30** Ticket to Paradise (1038624) **10.00** Ghost Towns of the Old West (8445792) **11.00** Roads to Freedom (1936570) **11.30-12.00** California's Gold (2432228)

TLC

9.00am Room Service (2948860) **9.30** The Roux Brothers (1905518) **10.00** Jimmy's (4886976) **10.30** Only Human (6916334) **11.30** Discovering Psychology (4782773) **12.00** Extra Dimensions (1988841) **1.00pm** The Roux Brothers (1021470) **1.30** Room Service (1908605) **2.00** A Change of Mind (4887605) **3.00** Shoot the Video (4665792) **3.30-4.00** Two's Country (2644841)

UK GOLD

7.00am Give Us a Clue (4376547) **7.30** Neighbours (5821632) **8.00** Sons and Daughters (2967895) **8.30** EastEnders (2962286) **9.00** The Bill (2957518) **9.30** Sutherland's Law (4403063) **10.30** Angels (6918792) **11.30** No Place Like Home (4784131) **12.00** Sons and Daughters (2960082) **12.30pm** Neighbours (1901792) **1.00** EastEnders (5726088) **1.30** The Bill (1900063) **2.00** After Henry (4655315) **2.30** Foreign Bodies (2674082) **3.00** Knots Landing (4796247) **4.00** Dallas (4707082) **5.00** Every Second Counts (9871518) **5.35** Dick Emery (5058985) **5.55** Hi-De-Hi (1655179) **6.30** EastEnders (2666063) **7.00** Keep It in the Family (4659131) **7.30** Sweet Sixteen (2662247) **8.00** After Henry (4675179) **8.30** Just Good Friends (4654686) **9.00** The Sweeney (9002570) **10.00** The Bill (2961711) **10.30** Top of the Pops (5580518) **11.20** Cool It (3423686) **12.00** Dr Who (5927445) **12.30am** FILM: Checkpoint (1957) Motor racing thriller with Stanley Baker (3635648) **2.05** Shopping (1236629)

THE CHILDREN'S CHANNEL

6.00am Sesame Street (73605) **7.00** Piggsburg Piggs (51995) **7.30** Garfield (30402) **8.00** Eek the Cat (78537) **8.30** Pugwall (77808) **9.00** Sonic (10624) **10.00** Gigantor (24353) **10.30** Swamp Thing (57044) **11.00** Cadillacs and Dinosaurs (63501) **11.30** He-Man (13060) **12.00** Zazoo U (71624) **12.30pm** California Raisins (88402) **1.00** Tic Tac Toons (50266) **1.30** Casper (87773) **2.00** Ghostbusters (5841) **2.30** Super Mario (53553) **3.00** Eek the Cat (5440808) **3.15** Bill and Ted's Excellent Adventures (928957) **3.45** Sonic (9272228) **4.15** Head to Head (18273533) **4.30-5.00** California Dreams (2889)

NICKELODEON

7.00am Denver (19334) **7.30** Chipmunks (98841) **8.00** Teenage Hero Mutant Turtles (30353) **8.30** Rocko (39624) **9.00** Rugrats (20976) **9.30** Clarissa Explains It All (48860) **10.00** Grimmy (80334) **10.30** Carmen Sandiego (19660) **11.00** Killer Tomatoes (62315) **11.30** NickAlive! (63044) **12.00** Pee-Wee's Playhouse (28452) **12.30pm** Galaxy High (59976) **1.00** Doug (18606) **1.30** Alvin (58247) **2.00** Denver (3763) **2.30** Speed Racer (8247) **3.00** Ghostbusters (9860) **3.30** Carmen San Diego (3792) **4.00** Grimmy (9599) **4.30** Rugrats (1711) **5.00** Clarissa (61605) **5.30** Doug (2063) **6.00** Galaxy High (9976) **6.30-7.00** Land of the Lost (2088)

DISCOVERY

4.00pm Kookaburras (2663976) **4.30** From Monkeys to Apes (2652860) **5.00** Africa the Hard Way (24655173) **6.05** Beyond 2000 (8547518) **7.00** Earth Tremors (90112228) **8.00** Connections 2 (46964211) **8.30** Voyager — National Geographic (4652228) **9.00** First Flights (4701808) **9.30** The X-Planes (1999570) **10.00** Discovery Journal (90105991) **11.00-12.00** Nature (6940327)

BRAVO

12.00 FILM: The Share Out (1962) A private eye goes undercover to smash a blackmail ring With Bernard Lee (1915995) **1.00pm** Smothers Brothers (3126204) **1.30** The Mothers-in-Law (1995131) **2.00** thirtysomething (4874131) **3.00** Rat Patrol (4899518) **3.30** Hogan's Heroes (2671995) **4.00** FILM: **Private Files of J. Edgar Hoover** (1977) Biopic of the FBI director With Broderick Crawford (4663334) **6.00** Get Smart (2677179) **6.30** Police Woman (29003334) **7.30** Honey West (2657315) **8.00** thirtysomething (9017402) **9.00** The Twilight Zone (47983334) **9.30** FILM. **The Best of Times** (1986) Middle-aged banker Robin Williams restages a football match With Kurt Russell (37433334) **11.30-12.00** Hogan's Heroes (4879686)

UK LIVING

6.00am Agony Hour (5753421) **7.00** Living (10950631) **8.00** Health UK (34200821) **8.30** Rendezvous (34203353) **9.00** Family Matters (3410605) **9.30** Kate and Allie (33052228) **10.00** Now You See It (8992686) **10.30** Susan Powter **11.00** The Young and the Restless (37172558) **12.00** A Cook's Tour of France (76716524) **12.30pm** Rendezvous (43696501) **1.05** Kilroy (77703353) **2.00** Agony Hour (8993315) **3.00** Living Magazine (52412228) **3.45** Gladrags and Glamour (88231402) **4.00** Intatuation (67486866) **4.30** Crosswits (38367518) **4.55** Della Smith's Cookery Course 3 (83616866) **5.30** The New Mr and Mrs Show (67511150) **6.00** Susan Powter (67580663) **6.30** Brookside (6749315) **7.00** Living (73646824) **8.00** The Young and the Restless (7340044) **9.00** FILM **Jealousy** Angie Dickinson in three short stories about the green-eyed monster (7343131) **11.00** Brookside (4927063) **11.30-12.00** Intatuation Uk (89815570)

FAMILY CHANNEL

5.00pm Dangermouse (7421) **5.30** Where I Live (6841) **6.00** African Skies (143421) **6.25** All Clued Up (731866) **7.00** Trivial Pursuit (4957) **7.30** My Two Dads (3518) **8.00** Christy (55537) **9.00** Moonlighting (35773) **10.00** Family Catchphrase (72353) **10.30** GP (58773) **11.00** Lou Grant (37315) **12.00** Rhoda (69795) **12.30am** Big Brother Jake (96984) **1.00** Dangermouse (74990) **1.30** Trivial Pursuit (17193) **2.00** Moonlighting (32174) **3.00** Lou Grant (87361)

Championship plans confirmed

England mends its fences with Uefa after riot

BY PETER BALL

THE 1996 European championship will go ahead in England as planned, and without fences. The delegation from Uefa, the European governing body of football, which is visiting the grounds this week where matches will be played, left no doubt that the riot by England supporters in Dublin last week has not affected the staging of the tournament in England.

The decision seems a formality, even though the Football Association has yet to conclude its investigation into the disturbances and Uefa will not consider the FA's report until next month.

"The European championship committee is going to receive reports on the Dublin business, and they will make their own judgments on it when they meet on March 23 in Geneva," Ernie Walker, the chairman of the Uefa stadiums committee, said at Anfield yesterday. "But clearly the European championships are going on in England, or we would scarcely be here."

Walker, who is leading a five-man delegation inspecting the progress at the eight grounds staging the tournament, was equally certain that there would be no moves to restore fences to English grounds in the wake of the Dublin riot or the pitch invasion at Chelsea two weeks ago. "I cannot imagine any circumstances in which Euro '96 will have fences," Walker said. "The policy in this country is to employ stewards and police to guard against intrusion onto the field, but intrusion onto the field isn't really a problem in this country.

"There was one event at a game in London [at Chelsea] ... but we cannot measure the whole game, the whole sport in this country, by these odd quirks. We do not envisage that will be a problem."

Dutch players rebel 40

Lennart Johansson, the president of Uefa, had suggested after the abandonment of England's match at Lansdowne Road that fences might need to be considered, but Walker dismissed the suggestion. "Many things are said off the cuff when these sort of emergencies arise, and perhaps they don't stand up to closer examination," Walker said.

"Uefa has no ambition to see any stadium fenced in. Clearly there are places in the world where it would be impossible to stage football without some degree of fencing, but that doesn't prevail in Britain."

If those who were at Hillsborough will welcome those assurances, it was hard to avoid a sense of complacency still prevailing in spite of recent events. "There may be the odd better stadium," Walker said, "but city for city, the best grounds in the world are in this country, and for unfortunate reasons the police in England are the most expert in the world in handling crowd problems.

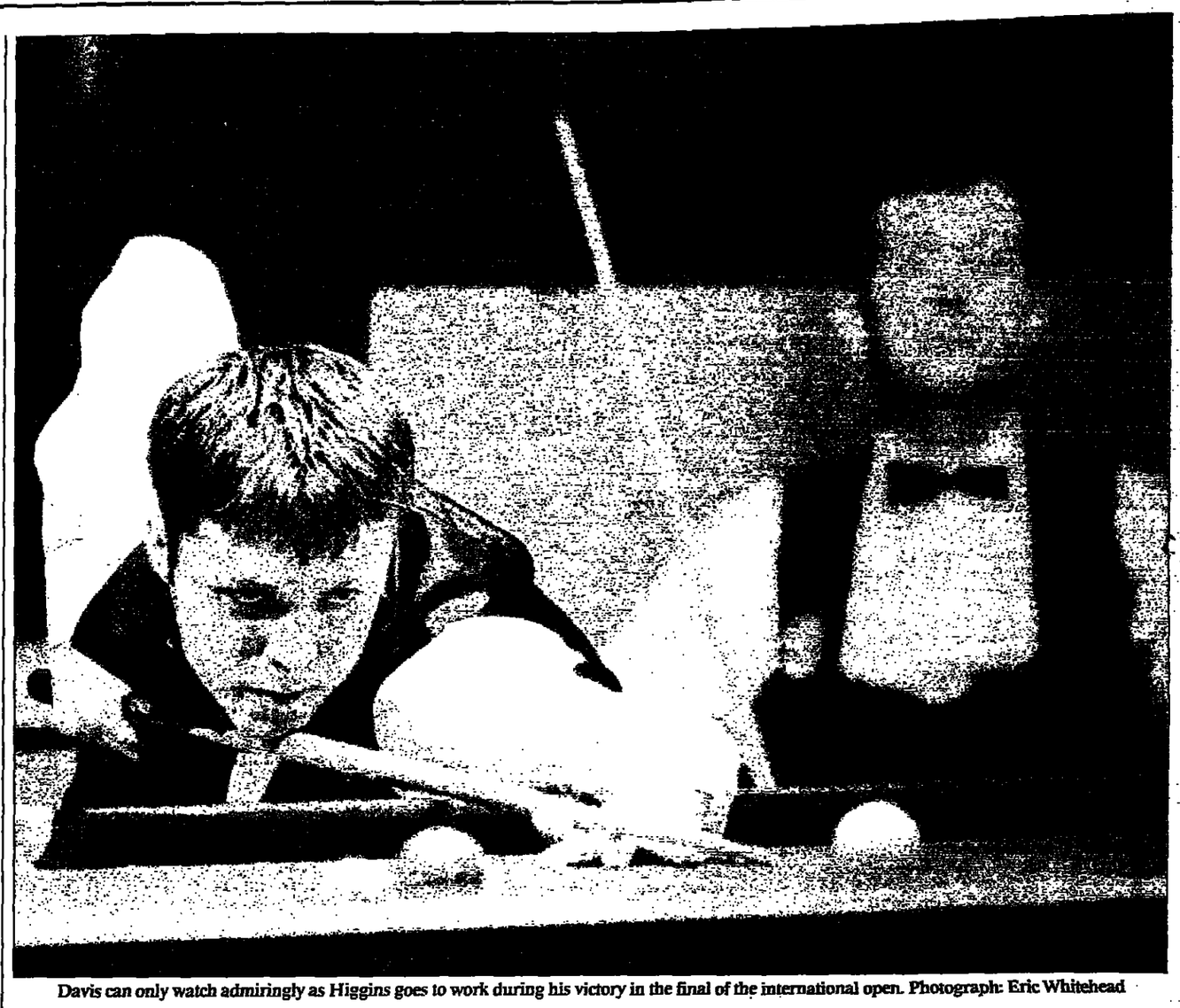
"In recent tournaments, in Germany and Sweden and the World Cup in Italy, other than some minor troubles in cities, they were wonderful fiestas of football, joyful occasions. And I am sure that the championships in England will be an entirely happy and joyous football festival, and we will all have long forgotten the gross absurdities of Dublin by the time that comes about."

Glen Kirton, the director of Euro '96, who is accompanying Walker's delegation, repeated assurances made last week that ticket security was as tight as possible. "Nobody is ever in absolute control of where tickets go," Kirton said, "but the system is as sophisticated as any I have seen."

About 275,000 tickets have already been sold; with another 500,000 allocated for the competing nations, more than half the tickets are already accounted for. However, a spokesman for Synchro Systems, which is handling sales for the FA, yesterday denied claims that the system was a charter for touts.

"We are trying to make sure that people who go to the later stages are those who have supported the tournament all the way through, the genuine football fans," Paul Williamson, Synchro Systems' accounts manager, said.

Eric Cantona, who may wish that supporters were behind fences, returned to Manchester on Sunday, and yesterday he met Maurice Watkins, Manchester United's solicitor, to discuss his appearance before the FA on Friday and his forthcoming meeting with South Norwood police.



Davis can only watch admiringly as Higgins goes to work during his victory in the final of the international open. Photograph: Eric Whitehead

Shrewd Higgins has Davis in his pocket

Phil Yates hears a glowing tribute from one of snooker's great champions as an outstanding young talent emerges

IN HIS 17 years as a snooker professional, Steve Davis has witnessed the emergence of many fine prospects but, in John Higgins, his conqueror in the final of the Sweater Shop international open at Bournemouth on Sunday, Davis recognised a genuinely outstanding talent.

Higgins not only out-potted but also outwitted Davis, winner of the world championship six times, and left his illustrious opponent impressed by his mature attitude.

By adopting a percentage game and playing in a remarkably balanced manner for one with relatively little experience at the highest level, Higgins, 19, earned Davis's seal of approval and his respect.

"It's a pleasure to see the game played properly and I can only welcome him to the fold. I've never been embarrassed to lose against a great player and that's what John is. He's learnt very quickly and very well," Davis, who beat Higgins 9-3 in the Regal Welsh Open three weeks ago, said.

In Newport, Davis, a master at breaking an opponent's rhythm, demoralised Higgins with his superior tactical awareness, but during the rematch nothing could affect the Scot's confidence.

After a first session full of gruelling safety exchanges, Higgins led 4-3, but there remained a nagging doubt that his mental stamina would not stand up to that of Davis, who was seeking to secure his 71st title.

However, Higgins, without ever bordering on impetuosity, began to employ a more aggressive shot-selection policy on the resumption. A shining example of this was a difficult yellow stroked to a middle pocket early in the twelfth frame, which led to a 102 clearance and a 7-5 lead.

For Davis, that break, so assuredly compiled despite the inevitably tense situation, was a blow from which he could not recover. Davis missed simple pots in each of the next two frames while Higgins completed an ultimately comfortable victory with further runs of 48 and 65.

A not insignificant portion of the £60,000 first prize collected by Higgins will be handed to his insurance broker: he was also presented with the keys to a new Mercedes car valued at £32,000. Indeed, it has been a lucrative month for Higgins, who pocketed a cheque for £63,000 only nine days ago after reaching the final of the Benson and Hedges Masters. Since mid-January he has amassed £141,000 — and has earned total prize-money of £209,805 during a season in which he has become the Australian Open and Skoda Grand Prix champion.

Such success is no doubt a source of frustration to Ian Doyle, the Scottish businessman who severed his managerial ties with Higgins in October after an argument between the two at the Dubai Classic.

During his three years as a client of Doyle, Higgins had the invaluable advantage of being able to practise on a daily basis with Stephen Hendry, the world champion, and other leading professionals such as Alain Robidoux, the French Canadian.

Doyle is rightfully regarded as the best manager in the game. As he readily agrees, however, Doyle is also the embodiment of the Presbyterian work ethic and discipline is high on his list of priorities.

Hendry and others have responded positively to his constant urgings and, at times, brusque approach, but Higgins clearly did not. "I'm relaxed now without anybody hassling me. I can do what I want when I want and that hasn't done me any harm. It gave me a spur to prove them wrong," Higgins said on Sunday.

Higgins must travel 6,000 miles for his next tournament engagement, the Nescafé Thailand Open, in Bangkok from March 10-18, and, in addition, he has qualified for the final stages of the British Open and Embassy world championship in April.

TV cup-ties selected

THE two FA Cup sixth-round ties not dependent on replays have been chosen for live television coverage. The match between Everton and Newcastle United will be screened by BBC on Sunday, March 12, with Sky televising the meeting of Manchester United and Queens Park Rangers the following evening.

Sky also has live coverage of the fifth-round replay between Southampton and Tottenham Hotspur on March 1.

Glenn Helder, the Holland winger signed last week from Vitesse Arnhem for £2.5 million, makes his debut for Arsenal against Nottingham Forest in the FA Carling Premiership at Highbury tonight. Arsenal, though, will be without seven first-team regulars — Wright, Adams and Hartson are suspended, and Smith, Hillier, Selley and Campbell injured — as they attempt to secure their first home win in the league for four months.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

No 401

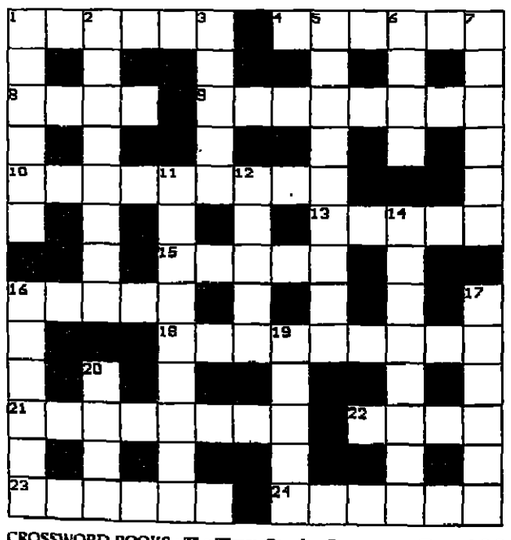
ACROSS

1 African doglike scavenger (6)
4 With sharp, uneven edge (6)
8 Rope fibre; Kentish settler (4)
9 Little illustration, sketch (8)
10 Incidental result (2-7)
13 Be relevant; present candidacy (5)
15 Faith; care, custody (5)
16 Vigil; naval four-hour period (5)
18 Appropriate, advantageous (9)
21 Empty speech (8)
22 Disordered flight (4)
23 Nape of neck (6)
24 Boat; set in motion (6)

DOWN

1 Throat-soothing gelatin pastille (6)
2 (Child's) stone-throwing weapon (8)
3 Bruise-coloured (5)
5 With marginal comments (9)
6 Total attendance at match (4)
7 Dull, boring (6)
11 Alive (of cattle) (2,3,4)
12 Seize (power) wrongfully (5)
14 Mythical female pontiff (4,4)
16 Sea mammal; sort of moustache (6)
17 Pain in side; element of knitting (6)
19 Do extra well (5)
20 Shakespeare's mad King (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 400
ACROSS: 4 Verse 7 Roulette 8 Wimp 9 Tabby cat 10 Fettle 13 Family 14 Fetish 15 Lean-to 18 Sweeping 19 Hour 20 Specimen 21 Audit
DOWN: 1 Cruise 2 Output 3 Nestle 4 Verbiage 5 Reaction 6 Earthy 11 Tattered 12 Last post 14 Fascia 15 Legacy 16 At home 17 Truant



CROSSWORD BOOKS : **The Times Concise Crosswords:** (Books 1 & 2 £5.99 each), Books 3,4,5,6 & NEW Book 7 £4.50 each. **The Times Jumbo Crosswords:** (Books 1 & 2 £5.99 each, Concise Book £5.99). **The Times Crosswords :** (Books 1 to 13 £4.99 each), Books 14 to 18 & NEW Book 19 £4.50 each. **The Sunday Times Crosswords** — (Book 1 £4.99), Books 10,11,12 & NEW Book 13 £4.50 each. **The Sunday Times Concise:** Books 1,2,3 £4.50 each. Except the items in brackets, software available for all titles for **IBM PCs** and **Acorn Archimedes** *computers* — Price £14.95 each — also The Times Computer Crosswords Vols 1 to 6, The Sunday Times Vols 1 to 6 and The Times Jubilee Edition. Prices inc p&p (UK). Cheques with order payable to *Akom Ltd.* 5) Manor Lane, London SE13 5QW. Tel 0181-852 4575 (24 hrs). No credit cards.

Battle to host cup nears completion

BY DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

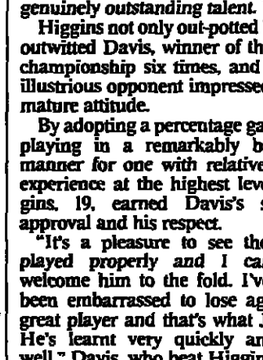
UNLESS a belated French presentation is accepted, only two bids will be made next month to host the 1999 Rugby World Cup. Both England and Argentina having officially withdrawn their interest, the field is shared between Wales and the three-country conglomerate fronted by Australia.

Last Friday the French Federation de Rugby (FFR) expressed its intention of returning a tender document to host the tournament, but they have missed the February 14 deadline set by the International Rugby Football Board (IRFB). Doubts have been expressed on the other side of the Channel about whether the FFR intended to mount a serious bid and the recent loss of form of their national team leaves them with more immediate problems.

The IRFB will receive presentations in Bristol on March 11, with Wales hoping to receive support from the other home unions, though that is far from assured. Neither Scotland nor Ireland are happy with their share of the tournament as envisaged by the Welsh; on the other hand, the Australian proposition, encompassing as it does pools played in New Zealand and Japan, cuts across logistical guidelines.

France were seen as one of the favourites for the 1995 tournament in South Africa, but defeats, by England and Scotland, have jolted their aspirations. Their team to play Ireland in Dublin on March 4 is due to be named on Thursday and already Christophe Deylaud, the off-form Toulouse stand-off half, has asked not to be selected. Olivier Merle, dropped after the Welsh game for his head butt on Ricky Evans, seems certain to be restored at lock.

Wales will announce today their team to play Scotland, having lost their first two championship matches. They must replace the injured Nigel Walker and Anthony Clement, together with the suspended John Davies. Wayne Proctor, of Llanelli, seems sure to replace Walker on the wing,



Walker: shoulder scan

with Matthew Back (Bridgend) remaining at full back, where he replaced Clement last Saturday.

Huw Williams-Jones (Llanelli) propped when Davies was sent off and his nearest rival is probably the uncapped Cardiff player, Lyndon Mustoe. Walker will know after a scan tomorrow whether an operation will be necessary on the shoulder dislocated for the second time this season.

RFU challenged, page 5
Loophole in laws, page 42

Pakistan to probe bribery claims

BY SIMON WILDE

ALLEGATIONS of bribery levelled at Pakistan cricketers are to be dealt with by the country's ruling body for the game rather than the International Cricket Council (ICC), the world governing body, it emerged yesterday.

David Richards, chief executive of the ICC, had what he described as a "constructive meeting" with Javed Burki, who chairs the ad hoc committee of the Board of Cricket Clubs of Pakistan (BCCP), at Lord's yesterday, and handed to him copies of the statements of several Australian players who toured Pakistan late last year, and which are believed to accuse Salim Malik, the Pakistan captain, of attempted bribery.

In a brief statement, Richards said that Burki "agreed that the allegations were most serious. He [Burki] was confident that [the] BCCP would take swift action on them".

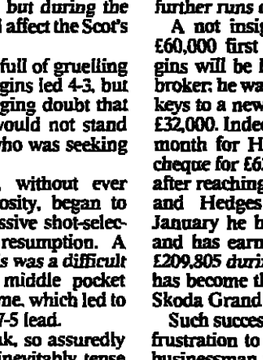
Richards, acting on legal advice, refused to comment on the contents of the statements, and said that he would make no further pronouncements on the matter until the investigation is complete.

Richards's implication — and expectation — must be that Pakistan will now take full responsibility for the matter. In any case, the ICC's powers, though wider than ever before, are inadequate for such a serious issue without recourse to a special meeting, which would take time to convene.

Pakistan complete their troubled tour of southern Africa with three one-day internationals in Zimbabwe later this week, after which their next engagement is in Sharjah in April. Unlike India and Pakistan, betting on cricket matches is legal in the United Arab Emirates, and it is around the competitions held there in the past 11 years that some of the claims of match-fixing revolve.

Whatever the outcome of the BCCP's inquiry, the Pakistan team is likely to see changes for Sharjah after the disagreements within the team in South Africa last month.

A players' revolt was averted only by the swift arrival of



Richards: constructive

Arif Abbasi, a member of the BCCP, from Pakistan, and is believed to have centred on Rashid Latif, the vice-captain, after disagreements with Salim over tactics in the Mandela Trophy final, which was lost to South Africa.

Sarfraz Nawaz, a former Pakistan player and now sports adviser to the Punjab's chief minister, said at the weekend that Rashid had accused nine colleagues of accepting bribes, and threatened to leave the tour.

Gallian excels, page 41

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